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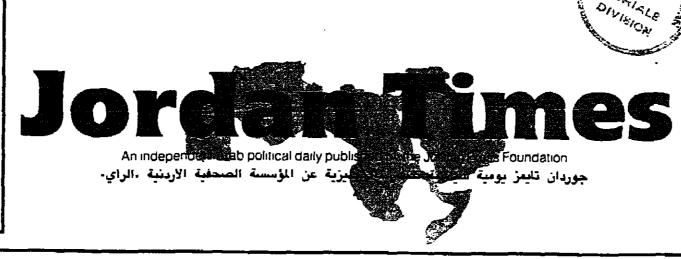
stank then sure of reserving think it's think it's nutrished a nutrished a seize control of the devastated Chechen capital. -A 12- to 15-storey concrete apartment block blazed out of control after a direct hit. The Cuohe Russian warplanes screamed overhead, firing flares, as the barrage of artillery and mor-Einstein, on the Broken was a series of their feet was tar fire reached what appeared to be a new peak,

Witnesses said. of more than hildren and hildr In a sign that Russia may be preparing for a decisive assault on Grozny, a huge Alumn of reinforcements mothers were the second of the was reported heading towards the city from the neighbouring Ingushetia region on Russia's southern rim. The operation fully to

Friday, the president's office said, Mr. Dini, a 63-year financial expert and former head of the Italian central bank, said he had agreed subject to obtaining majority support. His nomination ends a three-week political deadlock caused by the resignation of outgoing Premier Silvio Berlusconi, forced to quit when his Forza Italia-led government lost the support of its coalition partners. The prospect of Mr. Dini being appointed sent the lira and Italian stock prices soaring shortly before the announcement was made. The entreucy rose to 1,055 to the mark from 1,062.65 when trading began, while the Mibtel stock index advanced by 1.55 per cent. Forza Italia spokesman Antonio Tajani said earlier that the treasury minister was "a personality who can tackle (Italy's) most pressing problems." Although politically non-aligned, Mr. Dini is seen as a conservative and a close ally of Forza Italia.

Dini named new Italian premier

ROME (AFP) — Outgoing Treasury Minister Lamberto Dini was asked by President Luigi Scalfaro to form a new government Priday, the president's office said, Mr. Dini, a 63-year financial



Fresh violence sweeps parts of Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) - Kurdish rebels killed eight people DIYAKBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Kurdish rebels killed eight people in a village in the southeastern province of Diyarbakir, while five soldiers were killed in a helicopter crash in the same area, security officials said Friday. Troops pursuing the rebels who fled after the Thursday night attack on Narlica village killed four of them and were continuing operations against the others, they said. Guerrillas of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) attacked Narlica shortly after midnight with rockets, officials of the regional emergency rule based in Diyarbakir city said. They later clashed with civilian village mards protecting the output of the said. with civilian village guards protecting the community, they said.

Two children, two women, an elderly man and three guards were killed. Six other people were injured. The emergency rule governor's office in Diyarbakir said an army helicopter crashed in the province Friday, but gave no more details. Security officials from the area said five soldiers were killed in the crash. In other clashes in the southeast, troops killed 20 rebels on Thursday in rural areas of Sirnak and Bingol provinces and near Midyat town of Mardin province, officials said.

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Jordan, Israel to speed up peace treaty implementation

Accord by Jan. 25 on speedy realisation of goals Rabin visit seen to reflect commitment of both sides

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's four-hour visit to Jordan late Thursday was a gesture of the goodwill that exists between the Kingdom and Israel and a reaffirmation of the determination of the two countries to implement their Oct. 16 peace treaty in all its aspects, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said Friday. Among the most tangible results of Mr. Rabin's talks with His Majesty King Hussein were an agreement to

accelerate the pace of implementing the peace treaty and early prospects for Jordanian exports to Israel. This would include bringing forward the schedule of Israeli withdrawal to international borders as agreed in

the peace treaty and Israeli permission for imports from Jordan even before the two countries formalise a trade agreement in May.
Also covered during the discussions were plans to build water projects that would ensure Jordan's share ASHINGTON (AF F of water from northern

sources. The projects — two

dams/reservoirs and a water

purification plant among

additional 215 million cubic metres of water to Jordan. No progress was im-

mediately reported on the expected nomination of Israel of an ambassador to Jordan, and it was believed that Mr. Rabin and his Foreign Minister Shimon Peres continued to disagree over the nominee. However, the dispute is expected to be resolved by next week and nomination made immediately thereafter. Shortly after his arrival by

helicopter accompanied by several high-ranking military officials and deputy ministers, Mr. Rabin held a oneand-a-half hour closed meeting with the King. The meeting was followed by a broader round of talks including Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qassem, Mr. Kabariti and Marwan Muasher, who is expected to

be Jordan's ambassador to Mr. Kabariti, who attended the expanded talks, said Mr. Rabin's visit was a gesture reflecting the goodbetween the two countries. Mr. Rabin also wanted to establish contact with his new counterpart, Sharif Zeid, who formed his governother things—are part of the peace treaty that allocates an firsthand about the views of

plementation of the peace

'We assured them that there was no change in our approach and we are as determined as Israel to implement the peace treaty," Mr. Kabariti told the Jordan Times. It also appeared that Mr. Rabin initiated the discussions on how to accelerate the implementation of the treaty as another sign of Israel's good faith intentions with Jordan.

Both the King and Mr. Rabin, in comments to reporters after their talks at the Hashemiyeh Palace, underlined the commitment of the two countries to implement the peace treaty "in letter and spirit.

The implementation of the peace treaty is going "as scheduled," the King said, adding that he and Mr. Rabin reviewed all issues related to the treaty and aspects of the newly emerging Jordanian-Israeli relationship.

We are determined, both of us, to see that this treaty is implemented in terms of word and spirit and it is a foundation for relations between our peoples in the times ahead," the King said. "... We are determined, both we will keep meeting every

that progress continues and to ensure that we fulfill our commitment to our peoples, a commitment we take extremely seriously and are determined to fulfill."

done in the past to ensure

Noting that the peace treaty calls for Israeli withdrawal from Jordanian territories by Feb. 10, Mr. Rabin said he and the King agreed to accelerate the process and demarcate the international borders between the two countries ahead of schedule.

"However, there are also other bilateral issues." said the Israeli prime minister. These included, he said, "solutions to Jordan's water problem... and security arrangements, bearing in mind that we are pulling back to international borders."

Israel will also allow imports from Jordan soon, he added, without specifying a time frame.

Mr. Rabin said it was agreed that negotiators would reach an agreement to try to accelerate the timetable for applying the treaty by Jan. 25.

'We have to make sure that whatever we have agreed on and we signed on will be impiemented in accordance to the letter and the spirit of the

(Continued on page7)

His Majesty King Hussein with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir at the Hashemiyeh Palace on Thursday (Photo by Yousef Allan)

Jordanian land is not under lease to Israel — Prince Hassan

Crown Prince reviews peace treaty, Jordan's ties with Arabs and objectives

LONDON (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Friday Jordan did not lease its land to Israel but was allowing Israeli farmers to use the farmland, and said some Arab parties were wrong in criticising Jordan for that.

At a meeting with the chief editor and staff of the London-based Al Hayat Arabic daily, Prince Hassan said the arrangement under the Jordan-Israel peace treaty was "wrongly called leasing because we do not talk about leasing but about allowing Israeli farmers to work within farmlands only.

"The Israelis do not reside on Jordanian land. These farmers reside in Israel and come to plant the land," said Prince Hassan, who is currently on a private visit to the United Kingdom.

Prince Hassan reviewed at the meeting the developments leading to the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty last October, the situation prevailing in the Middle East, Jordan's relations with Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the

situation in Iraq.
The Crown Prince said the

Jordanian-Israeli peace talks agenda was clear and ready for implementation but Jordan preferred to wait for progress on the Palestinian track when the two sides were involved in the negotiations with Israel under the umbrella of a joint delega-

"When the Jordanian and Palestinian tracks split and the Oslo agreement was signed, we found that the best means to support the Palestinian decision is to initial the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations agenda just one day after the Palestinian-Israeli agreement was

signed," he said. He said Jordan sought to start implementing the provi-sions of the Jordanian-Israeli peace freaty, saying sovereignty was one of the pressing issues and delineating the border was near and

that redeployment will take place in February. The Prince said Israel had started pumping 20 million cubic metres of water to Lake Tiberias to be pumped to Jordan in the period between May 15 and October. In addition, he said, 50 million cubic

metres will be pumped to

Jordan before next summer. Prince Hassan considered Israel's recognition of these water rights as an achievement for Jordan, pointing to an agreement to build two dams on the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers and to start water desalination projects.

The peace treaty, he said, was the official framework but the issue of implementing it and its annexes was the serious topic that would show the two countries' will to bring change on the ground. He said that will take most of the current year.

In reply to a question on Jordan's acceleration of the (Continued on page 7)

Mubarak to visit Jordan By Ghadeer Taher Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will meet in Amman on Feb. 1, in the first visit of the Egyptian leader to Jordan after the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said Friday. Mr. Kabariti, who paid a brief visit to Cairo on Thursday and held separate discussions with President Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Musa, described his talks as "extremely successful" and said they succeeded in removing obstacles in the restoration of normal relations

between Jordan and Egypt. He said the Cairo talks produced agreement on a joint position vis-a-vis the question of Jerusalem and Jordan's role in maintaining the holy shrines in the occupied city.

The joint position calls for restoration of Arab-Palestinian sovereignty over Jerusalem and halting all Israeli measures aimed at Judaising the Holy City," the minister told the Jordan

Mr. Kabariti said Jordan and Egypt agreed that the conflict over Jerusalem and its holy sites must be resolved through Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in the final status talks scheduled for 1996. Mr. Kabariti's talks in

Cairo came four days ahead of a meeting of the 16member Jerusalem Committee of the Organisation of be held in the Moroccan mountain resort of Ifran at the level of foreign ministers of the member countries of the panel, which is chaired by King Hassan II of Morocco.

Mr. Kabariti said the Jordanian-Egyptian agreement on the Holy City means that there could be no change on the current status of Jerusalem and its holy places until the final status negotiations begin next year. Meanwhile, Foreign Minis-

try Secretary General Nayef Hadid on Thursday summoned the ambassadors of Arab and Islamic states on the committee to inform them that Jordan would continue its custodianship of the holy shrines in Jerusalem until the Palestinians are in a position to take over control of East Jerusalem as part of a final settlement.

Mr. Kabariti, who is gathering support for Jor-dan's position ahead of the OIC meeting, is expected to meet with his Iraqi counterpart Mohammed Saeed Al Sahaf today in Amman to discuss a joint position ahead of the Morocco conference. The Iraqi foreign minister will be stopping over in Amman on his way to the meet-

It is believed that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), backed by Saudi Arabia and Morocco, wants the Jerusalem Committee to name a body to control the holy sites in Jerusalem, Jordanian officials said.

"Mr. Hadid told (the envoys) that Jordan was against any widening of the current religious custody over sites in Jerusalem and that it will continue its role until the Palestinian Authority can practise its role there." said a

Oct. 26.

The Jerusalem Committee met during the OIC summit in Casablanca, Morocco, in December, when Egypt was

PLO and Jordan during the summit.

Jordan hails move for Mideast bank

By Caroline Farai

Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN --- Jordan is satisfied with the outcome of meetings held in Washington last week that decided to èstablish a Middle East deyelopment bank to help fipance projects in the region, and is looking forward to a follow-up meeting in March,

where the details of the proposed bank would be finalised. a senior Jordanian official šaid Friday. Jawad Al Anani, former ninister of state for Prime Ministry affairs and minister of information, who led the Jordanian delegation to the Washington meetings of 37 countries, described the

proposed institution as a vitally needed facility to extend financial assistance to the private sector in Jordan and other countries in the Speaking to the Jordan

region. Speaking to the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i from Washington, Dr. Anani said Jordan was well-qualified to benefit from the proposed bank after it "improved its ability to solve its economic problems and implement the

adjustment."

Jordan was among the leading proponents of the proposal to set up the bank. U.S. President Bill Clinton, in an address to the Jordanian Parliament on Oct. 26, pledged \$75 million in American funds to the capital of the proposed bank.

The European Union and some Arab states, particularly oil-rich Saudi Arabia, were initially cool to the idea, but later changed their mind, according to reports from

Washington (see page 2). Dr. Anani said a preparatory committee would meet in early March to complete all the procedural issues related to the proposed bank and details such as the structure, objectives, shares.

In a statement to the press in Washington, Dr. Anani:

"The Bank's idea does not come out of a void; it is rather a manifestation of an expanded regional paradigm. The Regional Economic Development Working Group (REDWG) of the multilateral negotiations will have a

(Continued on page 7)

Settlers declare 'war for land'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) - Israeli settlers have launched a "land war," ex-panding their West Bank colonies and building new roads to try to prevent the spread of Palestinian autonomy.

We are fighting a real war for land against the Arabs and we will not back down," settler spokesman Aharon Domb said Friday.

With the Israeli army readying to redeploy outside Palestinian towns, the offensive began two weeks ago. Settlers first sent the bulldozers in to develop a hill-top site near the colony of Ephrata, south of Bethelehem, and work has also begun around several other settlements provoking Palestinian demon-

strations. "These actions are aimed to consolidate our control over the land allocated to us by the state and to prevent Arabs from taking land from Israel," Mr. Domb said.

"Behind the settler operations, clear strategy and careful preparations can be

" said the Haaretz news-The settlers say they fear for their safety in the event of under negotiation, and want to create secure blocks of settlement. They see the evacuation of towns by the army as a step towards Palestinian independence.

Settlers revealed Thursday they had completed a new road between two colonies without any official approval for the scheme.

"The road which avoids Arab villages will give greater security and attract more people to develop the settlements," said Pinhas Wallerstein, chairman of the settlers' council in the northern

Work began Tuesday on a new quarter of Elkana settlement, between Ramallah and Nablus. Settlers pulled up olive trees and fenced off a large tract of land 1.5 kilometres from the main village claiming it was govern-ment land although Palestinians have long farmed it.

persed protestors. Near Ramallah, settlers tried to create a new settlement overnight Monday-Tuesday on the site where an

West Bank.

Soldiers forcefully dis-

Israeli woman was recently

IAF says Sharif Zeid has made 'positive promises'

By Ayman Al Safadi Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has promised leaders of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) that respect for public freedoms and democracy will witness clear improvement in the coming period, IAF sources

IAF spokesman Hamzeh Mansour told the Jordan Times the pledge was made during a meeting that took place between IAF representatives and Sharif Zeid at the request of the latter Thursday.

Mr. Mansour described as a positive gesture Sharif Zeid's invitation to the IAF to the meeting, stressing that the Islamists appreciated this step and would "reciprocate any positive move from the government" towards improving its strained relations with them.

The IAF delegation, which included IAF Secretary-General Ishak Al Farhan and deputies Abdullah Akaileh and Abdul Rahim Okour in addition to Mr. Mansour, conveyed in clear terms the Islamists' concern over the "encroachments" on public freedoms in the Kingdom in the past one and a half years. Mr. Mansour said,

"The delegation also clearly articulated our position on the consultations for forming the government from which the IAF was excluded." Mr.

Mansour told the Jordan

The prime minister, said Mr. Mansour, understood the IAF's concerns and stressed that "he did not ignore the IAF (parliamentary bloc) and will not ignore it. We heard positive promises.'

Immediately after the formation of the government last Sunday, Mr. Mansour expressed his bloc's unhappiness over being kept out of the consultations over the formation of the new government. Sharif Zeid had met with

the leader of the Muslim Brotherhood movement. Abdul Majid Thneibat, and other Islamists before announcing the new cabinet, but the meeting did not discuss the composition of the cabinet and Mr. Mansour said the meeting did not involve the IAF bloc.

But despite the positive impression with which the Islamists emerged from Thursday's meeting with the prime minister, observers did not expect the IAF to change its position on the vote of confidence on the govern-

The 17-member IAF parliamentary bloc is expected to withhold confidence from the government as a reflection of its ideological rejection of the Oct. 26 peace treaty Jordan signed with Israel, and unhappiness over its exclusion from the consultations over the formation of the cabinet.

on the basis of its programme, its team and (the prime minister's) exclusion of our bloc in his consultations over the formation of the government," Mr. Mansour said

Friday.

treaty.

"We cannot accept being ignored," he said. But observers saw in Mr. Mansour's assertion that the IAF would reciprocate moves for reconciliation by the gov-ernment a reflection of a strong trend within the IAF which wants to end the movement's political isolation since the signing of the peace

They also said that Sharif

Zeid, whose politics they de-

scribed as being predicated

on maintaining dialogue with all political trends, will work towards improving ties with the opposition. That, however, observers said, will not lead to any concessions on the implementation of the peace accord to which the govern-

ment is clearly committed.

And since the Islamists are also "concerned with maintaining dialogue with the government to serve the interest of the country," as Mr. Man-sour said, observers expect an improvement in the relations between the government and the Islamists. whose relations with the cabinet of Mr. Abdul Salam Majali was marked by ten-

Jordanian official quoted by Reuters. Arab tension over Jerusalem was kindled when Jordan's role in the Holy City was recognised in the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty signed

admitted as a new member. The debate over Jerusalem caused friction between the

(Continued on page 7)

best strategies for economic a redeployment, which is (Continued on page7) Russians in 'final' Grozny

GROZNY (Agencies) force out and destroy armed bands in Grozny will be com-Russia launched an all out air and ground assault on the pleted before the end of January," a military source at Russian military headquar-Chechen capital on Friday carrying out raids on a key ters in Mozdok, just outside Chechenya, told the Russian site south of Grozny that had been the rallying point of secessionist rebels returning news agency Interfax. Photographers who witnes-

sed the air raids said they Russian forces also fought fierce battles with Chechen took place in early afternoon fighters in a new drive to within a one-hour interval and targetted Minukta square, south of Grozny. Earlier in the day about 40 Grad missiles slammed into the square though there did

not immediately appear to be any casualties. This followed a more than three-hour Russian artillery barrage with shells crashing into the city centre every 10 seconds. The shelling was aimed mainly at the Grozny railway station and the main

roads in the centre. The latest assaults have prevented the Chechens from sending reinforcements to help fighters defending the presidential palace, the bat-

tered symbol of Chechen resistance, in central Grozny. In Moscow, the ITAR-TASS agency said Thursday that Russia had sent several hundred naval reinforcements, including seasoned marines, to Chechenya, to pour in troops for a blanket

east they were en route for Grozny. The reinforcements from Vladivostok followed marines from Russia's Pacific and Baltic fleets, who, according to ITAR-TASS, were dispatched to Grozny

assault on the capital. Based

on Wednesday. Opposition to the military operation appears to be mounting in Moscow with Russia's State Duma — the lower house of parliament voting Friday to curb the military's ability to undertake "tasks not corresponding to their functions" - such as

Chechenya-type situations.

iected a stronger motion

Earlier, however, it re-

use of Russia troops within the Russian Federation except when the country was

in Vladivostok in Russia's far The successful motion, passed by 243 votes against

> tions would be subject to approval by the Duma. In a new sign of foreign concern over the military campaign launched by Boris Yeltsin to crush Chechenya's bid for independence, Interfax said German Chancellor

> > (Continued on page7)

assault which would have banned the

threatened by foreign forces. The votes were taken during the third and final day of an extraordinary session of the Russian legislature focussing on the conflict in Chechenya.

two in the 450-seat assembly, specified that unorthodox operations would need a presidential decree and approval from the Federation Council, the upper house of parliament. And funds for such opera-

Helmut Kohl had telephoned

High skilled labour at cheap cost could be Jordan's best strategy

Survey finds innovative skills among managers, need for reexamination of export strategy and studies on Palestinian and Israeli industries

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As the Middle East is slowly gearing up to take advantage of the di-ridends of peace, and im-provement in the technical skills of the Jordanian work force could be the most signiacant factor that could help the Kingdom's industrial community, a recent survey has found.

The survey found that industrial managers appeared to be giving more attention to improving the technical capability of their work forces sather than change dramatic ally the marketing strategies of business or production

"A highly skilled manpower at competitive cost could be the key strategy to the future of industrial development in Jordan," said an executive summary of the survey made available to the Jordan Times. "It is one of the few assets that Jordan can develop in order to improve its comparative advantage in the region."

But the country also needs a "fundamental" reexamination of its whole export strategy if it were to realise its goal of an export-led economic growth, it said.

study was conducted by the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), a U.N. agency, in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Outreach Consultation project of the University of Jordan.

The survey, carried out in late 1994 among 84 small, medium- and large-scale industrial enterprises in Jordan, sought to assess "the strategies that firms may follow in order to face the challenge of the peace process." It said there was a pressing need for detailed studies on both Palestinian and Israeli industries to help Jordanian businessmen to ascertain the aegative/positive impact of trade with the Palestinian ter-

The findings of the survey, expected to be released in full soon, come at a time when Jordan businesses are increasingly in the limelight against the backdrop of the economic opportunities that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty offers and questions are being asked on whether the Kingdom's industrial community is capable of ris-ing to the challenges in terms of products, equipment, technology and marketing after decades of traditional approaches and large dependence on the state for support.

Market analysts say some Jordanian businesses have come up on the industrialists' own initiatives and they turned to the government for backing only when issues of legislation and official contacts were inevitable to advance their business prospects.

At the same time, the neculiarities of the regional markets imposed on Jordamian industries also made it all the more difficult for manay of them to implement

well-orchestrated production and marketing techniques because of the changes in the constants that were expected when programmes were first drawn up, according to

On the other hand, the 1990-91 Gulf crisis sparked by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait might also have brought out the best in innovative skills of the Jordanian industrial community, says the executive summary

"It is well established that the environment within which Jordanian managers had to operate in the last four to five years was a very complicated and volatile," said the summary of the survey. That was a reference to the sweeping repercussions that the Gulf crisis have had on the economy of the Kingdom, which lost key markets in Iraq and found itself deprived of the traditional buyers of Jordanian products in the Gulf states.

The survey classified issues on the basis of interconnected but distinct factors that play a key role in determining the course of Jordanian industry. These included improvement in technical capability, changes in input, market orientation, the national economic restructuring programme, impact of the Gulf crisis, and the challenges posed by the peace

On the first count — improvement in technical capability of the Jordanian work force — the survey found that "the most significant changes were not in the hardware aspects of technology but in the software aspect i.e. the human labour force."

It said 86 per cent of the managers interviewed reported a "significant change. in the level of innovation and renewal within their enterprises, 74 per cent experienced significant change in the technical capability of their work forces and 92 per cent reported that this change towards improvement."

It is subject to debate whether the change was the result of a concerted approach towards shifting the focus of training Jordanian workers with a view to raising the technical abilities of the local force or the injection of quality brought in by expatriates returning from Kuwait or the natural outcome of a major crisis bringing out fresh approaches from peo-

The survey said only five per cent of the target audience belonged to the expatriate community which has returned home. As such the explanation could lie in the two other factors.

On the second set of factors - changes in inputs -the study found little "significant changes.. in the production." It acknowledged that the main factor in this context was the difficulties that Jordanian industries faced in their imports as a result of the naval blockade of Aqaba --as part of international en-

forcement of the sanctions

against Iraq.
The blockade was lifted in late August 1994 after four years leaving a crippling effect on Jordanian industries in terms of high prices and delayed deliveries that scrambled production schedules. As a result Jordanian

> tive edge in prices.
> As the Jordanian dinar was devalued in 1989, depressing the purchasing value of the currency, the Kingdom's industrialists were forced to switch from their traditional but expensive sources to cheaper raw materials from Eastern and Central Europe, Turkey, the Far East and

proudcts lost their competi-

Arab countries. "However, cheaper should not be interpreted automatically as lower quality," said the study. "Jordanian managers were fully aware that competitive products required upgrading of the quality of their raw and intermediate materials."

The study found the changing composition of markets for Jordanian producers as both remarkable and disturbing" as the orientation for output remained at 75 per cent for the local market and 25 per cent for exports.

The fact that Jordan has been openly seeking an export-led economic development strategy without remarkable success means that its whole export strategy has to be reexamined in a fundamental way," said the study. "In fact, some critics insist that Jordan, in spite of general claims, does not have clear and articulated strategy for export."

A disturbing trend is a policy of emulating "successful industries," leading to unhealthy competition among a large number of producers of identical products — particularly foodstuffs, plastics, chemicals and textiles — in a small market.

The important question is: How can Jordanian investors be told that some industrial branches are already saturated and who can advise them to search for new and more innovative lines of products?" said the study. It also found that another question that remained unanswered was whether Jordanian industries could interact and complement each other rather than compete with each

In the area of the impact of the economic restructuring programme under way in the country on the status of industries, the study found that there was a general consensus among industrial managers that the policies and measures adopted by the government had brought about broad stability.

Over two-thirds of the target audience asserted that the only significant change has been the amount of taxes they had to pay, and 95 of them said the taxation policies affected them negatively.

The strict economic reform programme helped maintain a monetary stability that was 'essential for the ability of Jordanian enterprises to survive during the Gulf crisis and its aftermath," said the

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Dr. Mohammad Al Hilu 279773

Al Asema pharmacy . Nairoukh pharmacy . Al Salam pharmacy ...

AMMAN:

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Dr. Ziyad J'aitem

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An Israeli newspaper said on Friday Foreign Minister Shimon Peres secretly met the daughter of Syria's defence minister in Paris this week to push deadlocked talks with

It was the latest in a series of Israeli media accounts of secret meetings aimed at jump-starting stalled talks between the sides. The foreign ministry declined to comment on the report, and Syria has denied holding secret talks

results of the survey, noting that the Central Bank of Jor-

dan (CBJ) managed to hold

the dinar under stable bounds

and inflation was also held

under manageable levels.

Furthermore, the drive to

curb imports helped indus-

tries have a high level of of

protection against imported competing products, it said. Regional crises always had

impact on the Jordanian in-

dustrial sector, but with con-

trasting results. During the

Iraq/Iraq war of 1980-88,

some of the local industries

prospered as Jordan became

the focal point of transit trade

with Iraq in addition to the

Kingdom's exporters finding

new markets in Iraq. On the other hand, the Gulf crisis led

to devastating impact on

many Jordanian industries

to the Iraqi market.

whose output was attended

"It may be noted that while

rapid change increases the risk borne by... it may gener-

ate many opportunities for those who are ready and

aggressive," said the survey.

Marketing was most affected by the Gulf crisis

with all its repercussions, in-

cluding the blockade of Aqaba which forced changes

in approaches of many com-

panies, and some of them

that could not adapt to the

new situation were forced

"either to close down or to

operate at very low produc-

"The strategies followed by some Jordanian managers

were a local consequence of

the main challenges they

were facing," according to the survey. "They responded

to the problems in marketing

and sales by a three-pronged

marketing strategy: more concentration on the local

market, diversification into

new products and seeking

alternative export markets."

brought about by the peace

process, the survey found

that the responses provided

by Jordanian managers were

ambivalent and tentative

while remaining optimistic

the "ups and downs of official

Jordanian relations and the

possible impact of these,

sometimes unstable and anta-

gonistic, relations on the pos-

sibilities of benefiting from

business relations with

"They would like to ex-

pand their sales to cover the

West Bank and Gaza.. .they

would like to enter joint ven-

tures with Palestinain

there was a general fear from

Israeli competition although

able to Jordanian business-

men. "In fact Jordanian busi-

ness managers are discover-

ing how little they know ab-

out the Israeli economy and

its various sectors," it said.

"There is a felt need to study

in detail and to be more

familiar with various sectors

on both Palestinian and

prerequisite for formulating

strategies that are necessary

for the challenges of the coming peace era," it concluded.

"Such a knowledge is a

Israeli industries."

no specific studies were avail-

The survey also found that

businessmen," it said.

In the context of the shifts

The mass circulation daily Yedioth Ahronot said Mr. Peres met Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas' daughter in talks meant to prepare a meeting between Mr. Peres and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa.

It said a "senior Syrian representative" may have also participated in the meeting, which it said was initi-ated by a mediator who told Mr. Peres that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad wanted to convey a change in his

Asked on Thursday about media reports of a meeting, Mr. Peres said: "I don't know about this. If I had something to announce, I would announce it."

Syrian Information Minister Mohammad Salman described the reports as "fabricated and imaginative" and accused Israeli officials and media of being behind them. The negotiations are stuck

over the future of the Golan Heights, which Israel seized from Syria in 1967. Israeli radio reported Mr. Peres saw Nahed Tlass.

widow of Syrian millionaire Akram Ojjeh, during the evening after talks with President Francois Mitterrand. Yediot Abaronot added that the rendezvous took place at the Ritz Hotel.

Mr. Peres flew from France to Latin America on Wednesday where he declared: "We can reach an agreement by the middle of 1995" with Syria.

Arab sources in Paris told AFP that Mr. Peres had met Syrian personality. Mr. Sharaa on Thursday

ruled out any resumptions of bilateral peace talks with Israel in the near future.

Peres met Syrian defence | Algerian parties sign chief's daughter—report breakthrough accord

main Algerian Islamic fun-damentalist group signed an unprecedented accord with most of the country's opposition parties on Friday urging the military-backed government to hold democracy talks.

In a statement described as a "national contract," the religious and secular Algerian opposition called for a national conference to be held as soon as possible to pave the way for free democratic elections.

The breakthrough accord between the one-time enemy groups was signed at the Rome headquarters of a Roman Catholic community the Sant'Egidio - which has sponsored the six days of

The authorities in Algiers have branded the mediation as "outside interference" and declined to attend.

The four-page document, a copy of which was sent to news agencies, was issued after the narties met for six days of talks here to draw up a common response to three

ROME (Agencies) — The army scrapped elections the main Algerian Islamic fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

The document called for negotiations with the armybacked government on a .broad-based transitional administration that would lead to democratic multiparty elections.

But it said FIS leaders and all other political prisoners had to be released from detention and the army kept out of politics before serious negotiations could start.
The document, warning of

"real risk of civil war," said Algerians were living in a climate of unparallelled terror. "A global, political and equitable solution is urgently needed to open other prospects for a population that aspires to peace, stability and popular legitimacy.

A French diplomat said the government's opposition to the talks and the nonparticipation of the most hardline fundamentalist formation, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), called into question the impact of the years of conflict since the agreement on the ground.

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Saudis, EU more amenable to Mideast bank

The Jerusalem Post

ISRAELI officials expressed satisfaction yesterday (Wednesday) over the broad international support shown here for a new Middle East development bank.

At the conclusion of a twoday forum to discuss establishing such a bank, they also said they were pleased by the more amenable attitudes of the European Union and Saudi Arabia.

Asked whether the Gulf states will be forthcoming in helping to fund the bank, the finance ministry directorgeneral David Brodet, said: "I feel very good because what is the spirit of the meetings... is that eventually we shall find in this bank the Guif states the core countries in the Middle East and also the North African coun-

"The Saudis are basically more positive," he added, saying they came around due tend "soft," subsidized loans, but rather only loans at mar-

He said the EU, which had been skeptical about the bank due to fears of American control, reversed course after being presented with a united Israeli-Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian front.

U.S. under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Joan Spero, agreed, saying the "bank was seen as a particularly strong option" because the four parties offered "unified and visionary presentation."

But she said the door had not been closed on other national lending institutions meeting here also decided yesterday to form a task force that will explore such matters as the composition of the

bank, its equity and charter. The U.S. released a statement summarising the session in which it called for all countries hoping to become members of the bank to first 'eschew direct and indirect boycotts.

The foreign ministry director-general, Uri Savir, called the sessions "the most important meetings" on progressing toward formation of the bank.

Saudi Arabia's agreement to consider joining the task force, despite not having endorsed to the notion of the bank in the first place, provided Israel's greatest sur-prise this week," he said.

if you can't beat it, join it,"

The task force is due to meet here for the first time in March and is expected to deliver its recommendations by next October 30 in Amman, when the establishment of the bank is to be officially announced.

Any project to be funded by the development bank must be regional in nature rather than based in only one country, the Israeli officials

Brodet predicted that if the Amman conference adopts the task force's ultimate recommendations, the bank could begin operations as soon as early 1996. The funding sources are still unclear. though Brodet said 60 per cent is likely to come from outside the region.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rabin's Labour Party recovers in polls

TEL AVIV (AFP) - Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party staged a recovery in an opinion poll published Friday, pushing the right-wing Likud back back into second place. Labour would garner 40 of the 120 seats in parliament, or 30 per cent of the vote, if a general election were held now, the survey for the Maariv newspaper found. The Likud would take 33 or 34 seats, or 26 per cent. Some seven per cent voiced no opinion. Last week, polls gave labour only 36 seats compared with 42 for the Likud. However, the latest survey would not guarantee that Labour would remain in power because its main coalition ally, the left-wing Meretz, was credited with only four or five seats compared with the 12 it holds today. Labour won 44 seats in the 1992 elections and Likud 32. The poll was carried out this week among a representative sample of 500 Israelis

King Fahd phones five Arab leaders

RIYADH (AFP) - King Fahd phoned five fellow Arab leaders to discuss developments in the Arab World and Gulf, the official Saudi news agency reported Friday. The king spoke late Thursday to Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa of Bahrain, Sheikh Jabel Al Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait, and UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan, as well as presidents Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Hafez Al Assad of Syria. The king attended a summit with Mr. Assad and Mr. Mubarak in Egypt last month which called for a slowing in the normalisation of Arab relations with Israel pending a final Middle East settlement.

Israel to ask Britain to remove students from blacklist

TEL AVIV (AFP) - Israel will demand that it be removed from a blacklist of countries whose students should not be allowed on post-graduate courses with potential for nuclear proliferation, the foreign ministry said Friday. Ambassador Moshe Raviv has been told to convey Israel's concern to the Foreign Office in London and demand it be struck off the list immediately, a spokesman said. Britain announced last July that universities had been asked to join a voluntary scheme under which applicants for certain sensitive courses

would be vetted by the government. Countries on the list include Cuba, India, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Pakistan and Syria. However, a British embassy spokeswoman told AFP: "There is no embargo whatsoever on Israeli students. The scheme is voluntary and the government cannot prevent anyone from studying at the universities. There have been no cases involving Israeli students. "There have not been any applicants to study areas of concern, which are mostly nuclear-related courses." She said that the scheme was not linked dierectly to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which is up for renewal next year. But the spokeswoman added: "If Israel signed the NPT it would no doubt affect the position."

Egypt's office in Gaza to open at weekend

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's representative office in Gaza will open at the weekend with diplomat Mahmoud Korayem in charge, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said on Friday. Egypt's will be the fifth such office to open in Gaza, where the autonomous Palestinian Authority led by Yasser Arafat has its headquarters. The Egyptian office will also have a branch in the West Bank town of Jericho, the other area under the Palestinian Authority. The ministry said the purpose in opening the office was to support the authority and follow up Egyptian-Palestinian agreements on trade, economic relations and cultural and scientific exchanges. At the insistence of Israel, which opposes the trappings of statehood in Palestinian-administered areas, the self-rule agreement barred full diplomatic offices in Gaza and

Czech premier to visit Egypt next week

CAIRO (R) - Czech Prime Minister Vaciav Klans will visit Egypt for three days from next Thursday for talks with President Hosni Mubarak and Prime Minister Atef Sedki, a Foreign Ministry official said on Friday. His talks with Mr. Mubarak, who visited the Czech Republic last July, will include Bosnia and the Middle East, while Mr. Klaus and Dr. Sedki will compare notes on economic reform, he added. Egypt and the Czech Republic have prepared draft agreements on preventing double taxation and abolishing visa requirements for Czech and Egyptian visitors, he said.

Save water... Every drops counts!

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CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieb, Tcl. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tcl. 632785. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Amuniciation Tel 637440.

De is Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terrassacta Church Tel: 622366 Church of the Amuniciation Tel Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543. Armenian Cathelic Church Tel.

St. Ephraiso Church Tcl. 771751. Assertant International Church Tcl. 652526. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328. S243.28. German-speaking Evengelical Con-gregation Tel. 684195 The Latter-Day Salats Tel. 654932 Church of Nazarene Tel.675691. The Evangelical Local Church in

Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to rise slightly with winds south-westerly light to moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly

Min./Max. temp.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 14, Aqaba 21 Humidity readings: Amman 56 per cent. Aqaba 35 per cent.

Civil Defence Department Civil Defence Immediate

TELEPHONE NUMBERS Highway Police Public Security Department Hotel Complaints Price Complaints Water and Sewerage . 778336 . 637055 Central Amman Telephone 644945 637660 847632

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR **EMERGENCIES** Food Control Centre 637111

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121 787111 121 Jordan Television 773111 Water Authority Jordan Electricity Authority 815615 Electric Power

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

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HOSPITALS AMMAN:

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Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital ... 669131
University Hospital ... 84845
Al-Muasher Hospital ... 667227/9
The Islamie, Abdali ... 666127/37
The Islamie, Abdali ... 66614646 Amal Hospital 674155 ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital Zarqa National Hospital (09)983323

(09)900560 The Sina Hospital (09)986732 Al Hibma Modern Hospital (09)990990 Princes Besses Hospital (02)275555 Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275 Ibu Al Nafecs Hospital (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL **AIRPORT**

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) 15:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) Cairo (R.) London, Berlin (R.) 17:55 Frankfort, Vi London, Agaba (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Panis, Damascus (AF 21:55 Cziro (MS) London (BA) . Athens (OA) **DEPARTURES** Royal Jordanian (RJ) (Terminal 1)

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Other Flights ((Terminal 2)
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Gomez Abscal. traordinary and plenipo-

Accompanied by Minister of Administra- trative Reform Sadeq Abu Ras Friday tive Development Moheiddin Toq, Yeme- talks to the press upon his arrival in ni Minister of Civil Service and Adminis- Amman (Petra photo) Yemeni minister arrives for talks on administrative development On Yemeni-Saudi rela-AMMAN (Petra) — Yemeni stressed his government's de-Minister of Civil Service and

termination to promote them in various fields of coopera-He said he will work during his visit on laying the foundations for signing a bilateral cooperation agreement in administrative fields.

He told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Jordan and Yemen were currently considering a date for the meeting of the higher Jordanian-Yemeni joint comtions, which have soured recently over a border dispute, Mr. Abu Ras said there was an ad hoc Yemeni committee currently preparing a visit by Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh to Saudi Arabia for talks with Saudi officials after he concludes a European tour within the coming two

Mr. Abu Ras was received at the airport by Mr. Toq and

Jordan, Cuba consider setting up sugar refinery joint venture

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Administrative Development

Sadeq Abu Ras Friday ar-

rived in Amman on a six-day

visit during which he will hold

talks with Minister of Admi-

nistrative Development

Moheiddin Toq and other

officials on enhancing

Jordanian-Yemeni relations

In an arrival statement,

Mr. Abu Ras lauded

Jordanian-Yemeni ties and

in administrative fields.

AMMAN — Jordan and Cuba have launched discussions into the possibility of setting up a sugar refinery in the Kingdom as a joint venture in which the Cuban equity could come in the form of raw sugar from the

Carribean country. The discussions follow a visit to Jordan last month by the Cuban Foreign Minister, Roberto Gonzales, who announced at a press conference at the end of his talks here that Amman and Havana were interested in expanding trade relations and economic cooperation in various

Mr. Gonzales mentioned sugar as an item that his country could barter for Jordanian phosphates and other fertiliser related products and said the two countries could also cooperate in industrial joint ventures and phar-

maceuticals. Ali Dajani, an adviser at the Amman Chamber of Industry, said the concept of building a sugar refinery in Jordan was discussed at a meeting between the chamber's top officials headed by President Khaldoun Aba Hassan and the Nonresident Cuban ambassador to Jordan, Ernesto

Mr. Abscal, whose official title is ambassador extentiary, is based in Damascus.

The discussions focussed on the possibility of setting up a refinery in Jordan as a joint venture, and the Cuban equity in the project could come in the form of raw sugar," said Mr. Dajani.

"We are in the very early stages of the discussions, and it would take feasibility studies and detailed discussions before we could arrive at any figures related to capital, equity sharing, production capacity of the

Experts familiar with the sugar industry said the plant could cost at least \$80 million, depending on the choice of machinery and technology as well as installed capacity and projected output.

Cuba one of the largest producers of sugar, and Cuban technology, described as medium to high level, is rated as highly cost-effective in the area of refining sugar.

Depending on the capacity of the plant, Jordan could also export part of its output to neighbouring countries, Mr. Dajani said, adding that the Cuban side displayed keen interest in the project.

The plant could also provide much-needed job opportunities. Jordan consumes be-tween 140,000 and 150,000

tonnes of sugar every year, accounting for about \$50

million of its imports.

The cost of imports is expected to go up dramatically this year, given that international prices of sugar have hit five-year Latest quotas from the

London commodity market are at between \$420 and \$440 per tonne, up from \$340 early last year. The prices went up because of severe damages to sagar cane crops in several key producing countries.

Jordanian-Cuban discussions on the proposed joint venture would resume Kingdom will visit Havana in the first half of 1995. Also expected to be discussed during the visit are prospects for sugar-forphosphates barter trade and joint projects in pharmaceuticals and healthrelated areas.

Mr. Dajani recalled that Jordan built its first cement plant in the 50s under an arrangement largely similar in concept with the propos-

al for the sugar refinery. Germans, who provided the technology and machin-ery, and the Jordanian govenment held 51 per cent of the equity of the cement plant when it was launched. The Germans have since sold their share in the company, and the Jordanian government owns controlling interest in the production facility situated at

Jordanian, Chinese businessmen study joint investment prospects

last week explored prospects of launching joint investment projects and means trade between the two countries which is heavily in

southern China.

Mr. Abu Hassan said the country's legislation offers attractive incentives to inves-

Art at 6:30 p.m.

joint investment schemes. He suggested that the two

joint investment projects.

national products against \$23.6 million worth of Jordanian goods imported by Chi-

The chamber said that

mainly potash and phosphate, China has been selling, Jordan garments, domestic appliances, tyres, electrical,

The statement said that Kweichow, which has 34 million inhabitants, produces electronic equipment, refrigerators, domestic and electrical appliances, tea and

tobacco. launch joint investment schemes with Arabs.

exclusive to Arbor Day

celebrations. He said in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the departtree saplings in 1994. These duction.

buted free of charge to the Ministry of Agriculture Afforestation Projects as well as to citizens to encourage them to participate in the he Dead Sea road. "Green Jordan" project in The saplings will be the areas of Naour, Wadi Sir and Yajouz where 1,500

dunums of land will be planted with trees this year. Mr. Lawzi said that already 22,000 saplings were planted in these areas and some 105,000 forest tree saplings were given to citizens for planting around their private groves to protect fruit trees

from winds. He said the department offers farmers cash and inkind assistance.

According to Mr. Lawzi, the department this year started a new project to improve the incomes of needy families in the countryside by offering loans in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Credit Corporation.

Mr. Lawzi emphasised that planting trees should not be The project aims to increase the number of goats and sheep owned by needy families, raise field crop production in areas receiving heavy rain, improve nutriment nurseries in Yajouz tional levels in rural areas area produced 1.5 million and increase red meat pro-

Road safety group hopes to achieve progress with ministerial panel—Mohammed Dabbas

By Jennifer Hamarneh Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The Jordaman Society for the Prevention of Car Accidents (JSPCA) is pleased that the government is looking into the mounting road accident problem and hopes that the Central Traffic Committee's meetings this week will consider a related draft law proposed by the socie-ty, said JSPCA President Mohammad Dabbas Fri-

day. Mr. Dabbas, who attended an emergency meeting of the Central Traffic Committee Thursday chaired by Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad, said that his organisation has, for the last four years, been seeking the formal creation of a governing body to take on the responsibilities of all departments

concerned with traffic and

road-related matters. According to Mr. Dabbas, the various government bodies responsible for road safety continue to ex-

ercise no coordination. He said the JSPCA had long ago proposed a draft law that calls for the creation of a "super body" which would centralise activities of the concerned authorities and issue ordinances and regulations and ensure that road safety needs of the country are being met. At Thursday's meeting

need to enact new legislation that would help reduce accidents on the roads, including a point system for frequent violators of traffic laws and regulations.

Mr. Hammad spoke of the

According to Mr. Dab-bas, the legislation Mr. Hammad was speaking of was not actually a new law but rather amendments to the existing traffic law.

Those amendments, Dr. Dabbas explained, are aimed at "closing gaps in the present law and tightening it up," He said the proposed amendments are separate and apart from his

society's draft law. On Wednesday, His Majesty King Hussein visited police headquarters and called on the government and the Public Security Department (PSD) to take urgent action to end the chaos on the country's roads.

Mr. Dabbas hopes that at

another meeting of the Central Traffic Committee scheduled for Wednesday, to which he has also been invited, he will be able to present the JSPCA's proposed law. He was open to suggestions and modifications of the draft document, and said he hoped the committee would send

it swiftly for approval of the Cabinet and then to Parliament for consideration.

At Thursday's emergency meeting, Mr. Hammad said the draft law (amendments) stipulates that repeat violators of traffic laws would have their licences confiscated and traffic pelice would be given wider authorities to deal with any breach of the law. The minister also said that he would be urging the Ministry of Public Works to step up work on removing dangerous road junctions and improving the safety of

roads generally. Mr. Hammad said that last year drivers in the Amman area alone committed 20,000 traffic light violations. He said motorists are to blame for the majority of road accidents.

The Central Traffic Committee will prepare short, medium and long



Mohammad Dabbas

term plans to stem traffic violations, said Mr. Hammad.

He said a public awareness programme on traffic safety will also be given full attention.

According to PSD statistics there were 24,799 road accidents in Jordan during 1993, but no figures were yet available on accidents of 1994.

Premier instructs government to implement budget

AMMAN (Petra) — In an official communique Friday. Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker instructed government departments to implement the 1995 fiscal budget in accordance with regulations, particularly those on expenditure, and in coordination with the Fi-

According to the instruc-

nance Ministry.

1. All departments must strictly abide by rules concerning the dispensing of funds, money transfers, and spending only on approved budget projects.

PARIS (Petra) - French

President Francois Mitter-

rand was reported as saying

that the Jordan-Israel peace

treaty constituted a model for

resolving all other issues in

A source at the Elysee

Palace in Paris said that the

French president made the

remark during his meeting

with Israeli Foreign Minister

Shimon Peres, stressing

France's full support for

Arab-Israeli negotiations

especially Jordanian-Israeli

and Palestinian-Israeli talks

the European Union's (EU) rotating presidency, will ex-

pert all possible efforts within

the European Union to en-

Governorate will celebrate

Arbor Day on Sunday by

planting 5,000 forest tree sa-

plings in the Forest of Peace

area on Naour Al Adassiya-

planted on the sides of the

road to add to the scenery

there and to prevent land-

Area residents in addition

to representatives of public

and private institutions will

take part in the tree-planting

ceremony. Amman Gov-ernor Talaat Al Nawaiseh is

expected to take part as well.

nised by the governorate will

be held in other areas of

Director of Amman Agri-

culture Department Moham-

mad Lawzi said the depart-

ment was currently giving

priority to cultivating forest

tree saplings and developing

Amman.

the highlands.

Similar celebrations orga-

the Dead Sea road.

sure wider cooperation be- hensive peace.

along Dead Sea road

and agreements.

the region.

'Peace treaty is a model for

resolving region's problems'

exceed budget allocations. 3. All departments should take measures to reduce expenses and ensure the collection of funds due to the state treasury.

4. Departments should coordinate with the General Budget Department in preparing capital and current expenditure programmes, and that the Audit Bureau should be fully informed of any plans in this regard.

Departments should ensure that the earmarked allocations for water, electricity and fuel expenses must not be exceeded.

6. Departments should not 2. Departments should not take unilateral steps to trans-

tween the EU on the one

hand and Jordan and Israel

on the other, in a bid to back

The source also quoted the

French-president as stressing

Paris's traditional position of

supporting the right of the

Palestinian people in deter-

mining their own future,

stressing the need for quick

withdrawal of Israeli forces

and ensuring free, fair and

democratic elections in the

Syria and Lebanon on the

one hand and Israel on the

other for the sake of helping

them to arrive at a compre-

The source added that

the peace treaty.

Arab territories.

According to the source, Paris was seeking to narrow

France, which currently holds the differences between

5,000 trees to be planted

AMMAN (Petra) - Amman saplings, he said, were distri-

fer funds from one project to 7. Department tender com-

mittees should ensure that no tenders are awarded before sufficient allocations have been made in advance.

8. Departments should implement projects as early as possible during the fiscal year to avoid requiring any real-location of funds in the next 9. Departments with

allocations for maintenance and construction should coordinate with the Ministry of Public Works, which must take charge of their implementation.

10. Departments should obtain monthly reports from the public works ministry on any funds spent on their pro-

11. Departments are not permitted to appoint new employees or purchase vehicles and equipment from allocations earmarked for other projects except by prior approval from the Ministry of

> 12. Departments in various governorates should coordinate with the finance ministry cerning decentralisation.

> > of their financial status.

while adhering to rules con-13. Departments should conduct monthly assessments

14. All departments should supply the finance ministry with lists of all employees and their salaries and the dates of their appointments by the end of February.

15. Departments which collect revenues must provide the General Budget Department with full revenue state-

16. Departments must keep the finance ministry informed of any planned cooperation with regional or inter-national organisations.

17. Departments should provide the budget department with a list of all government-owned vehicles.



nied here by Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nayef Hadid, Friday talks

Qatari Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary to the press at Queen Alia International Ahmad Ben Abdullah Al Mahmoud, accompa- Airport before his departure for Doha (Petra

Qatari official concludes visit

Ministry describes outcome as 'very positive'

AMMAN (Petra) - Foreign Ministry Secretary General Navef Hadid and Qatari Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Ahmad Ben Abdullah Al Mahmoud Friday described the outcome of the Iordanian-Oatari Committee's meeting which concluded in Amman last week as very positive.

The two officials, speaking to reporters at the Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) prior to the departure of the Qatari official after a several-day visit to Jordan, said the meetings underlined the two countries' intentions to promote bilateral cooperation.

Mr. Mahmoud said the meetings achieved the aspired results, pointing out that the two sides reviewed bilateral agreements and means of activating them and

signing new ones. Stressing that Qatar was seeking better cooperation with Jordan. Mr. Mahmoud said the two sides discussed

the prospect of launcing new

The Jordanian side, he said, proposed several ideas to enhance cooperation. "I will convey these ideas

bilateral projects.

to my government to study them," he said. Mr. Hadid said the Jordanian side discussed conducting maintenance on Qatari aircraft in Jordan, an issue

for further study, he added. According to Mr. Hadid. Jordan has also requested that Qatar facilitate Jordanians wishing to obtain visas to visit Oatar and called for activating the role of the prithe higher joint Jordanian-Qatari Committee due to meet in Doha in April.

Last Tuesday, it was reported that the Qatari official has proposed the creation of a Jordanian-Qatari Bank in Doha. Following a meeting with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid

Ben Shaker, Mr. Hadid said the Qatari proposal entails 75 per cent Qatari ownership and 25 per cent Jordanian capital. Mr. Hadid also announced

that the Qatari official suggested the creation of a joint private university in Qatar which would employ mainly Jordanian expertise and staff. According to Mr. Hadid, the Qatari proposals were

vate sector in the two coun- met with positive response tries, noting that the issue is from the Jordanian side.

U.S. grants UNRWA \$1.4m for 2 new schools in Hittin

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Thursday had a ground breaking ceremony for two new UNRWA schools in Marka (Hittin) camp.

Attending the ceremony Wesley Egan, the U.S. ambassador to Jordan, said the schools will be constructed and equipped through a \$1,433,000 contribution from the U.S. gov-

The new school buildings will replace unsuitable prefabricated school premises and will include 38 clasrooms, four teachers rooms, two multipurpose rooms, one library room, one computer centre, one laboratory and other facilities, according to UNRWA. The premises will be used

stooms, four administrative

by four schools operating on a double shift basis: two for girls, and two co-educational, and will serve about 3,800 pupils, an UNRWA statement said.

Ambassador Egan was welcomed at the ceremony by Ele Saaf, director of UNRWA Affairs, Jordan.

Present at the ceremony

were Musleh Al Tarawneh, Governor of Zarga, Naceur Bouchoushi, director of education at UNRWA, and senior government and UN-RWA officials and a large crowd of camp notables, residents and pupils.

UNRWA in Jordan pro-

vides 10 years schooling to

more than 150,000 Palestine refugee children in 202 schools with 4,420 teaching The U.S. is the major con-

tributor to UNRWA's budget with over \$78 million for 1994, said the statement.

AMMAN (Petra) - Jorda- tors and various types of exwhile Jordanian exports are

nian and Chinese businessmen of adjusting the balance of

favour of China. Khaldoun Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, reviewed the prospect of initiating joint projects in engineering industries, electrical appliances and textiles with a trade delegation from the province of Kweichow in

emptions for economic proteam's spokesman said Jordan's central geographic location and its proximity to western as well as Arab states makes it eligible for such

sides set up a special committee to follow up on ideas for According to the Chamber of Industry, China sold Jor-dan \$72.3 million worth of

In response, the Chinese

na in 1993.

rubber and leather products and recording equipment as well as bed sheets, shoes and toys among other products.

According to a member of the visiting delegation China is trying to bolster its trade ties with the Arab states and

Cultural Centre.

* Exhibition of paintings by Ismail and Tamam ernment. Shammout at Abdul Hameed Shoman Founda-

WHAT'S GOING ON

SOUTH AFRICAN FILM FESTIV-

AL

* Film entitled "Sarafina" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

Poetry recital by Syrian Poet Shawqi Bagh-

EXHIBITIONS

* Exhibition entitled "Phase II- Doors and Windows" by Jordanian artist Ghada Dahdaleh. Also showing an exhibition by contemporary Arab artists at Darat Al

dadi at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and * Exhibition of works by Hala Mahayni at the Petra International Hotel in Agaba.

* Exhibition of abstract art by Zakaria Barakat at the Housing Bank Gallery.

★ Exhibition of works by Suad Khalil at the Royal

slander sult

show Hard Copy and a local

radio station Thursday accus-

ing them of slandering him. .

The lawsuit contended Hard

Copy reporter Diana

Dimond falsely reported in a

radio broadcast that there

was "a renewed and 'red hot'

new allegations of child

target of a year-long child

prosecutors announced last .

sex-abuse investigation until

September no charges would

be filed, had emphatically de-

med the latest reports. After

promising to take legal action

against "reckless members of

the media," Jackson made

Dimond a fellow Hard Copy producer Paramount which

show Los Angeles radio sta-tion KABC-AM and two of

its talk-show hosts. It stated

redress a slanderous, vicious

and wholly-fabricated story"

minute "X-rated" videotape purportedly showing the sin-

ger engaging in illegal con-duct with a child.

about the existence of a 27-

Jackson had filed the case "to .

good on his threat with a

makes and distributes the

lawsuit that named Ms.

police investigation... into

molestation" against Jack-son. The entertainer, the

W-2 ·

Truce monitors take up posts ahead of fresh Sri Lanka talks

Truce monitoring teams moved into Sri Lanka's frontline regions Friday as Tamil guerrillas and the Colombo government prepared for another round of peace talks, a senior minister announced

Energy Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte said two committees headed by Norwegian monitors headed for the eastern towns of Trincomalee and Batticaloa to begin observing the ceasefire pact which came into effect Snn-

day.
"We will have two more committees for the north when we have Canadian representatives arriving here over the weekend," said Ratwatte, who is also the junior defence minister.

He said the truce between security forces and the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was holding on its sixth day Friday despite minor violations, which had been settled by respective local field com-

The minister said the government hoped to finalise dates for substantive political talks with the LTTE when the two sides open their third round of negotiations in the Tiger-held northern Jaffna peninsula Saturday.
The government's five-

member delegation includes two military officers. For the first time, the LTTE had

Simpson

jury trial

under way

next week

LOS ANGELES (R) -

The Superior Court judge

said he would first rule on a

vital defence motion to sup-

press evidence about the

football legend's alleged his-

tory of physical and mental abuse of his ex-wife, Nicole

Simpson, an

internationally-known sport-

scaster, actor and television

pitchman, was arrested and

charged with the murder of

Nicole Simpson and her

friend Ronald Goldman on

June 17 following a bizarre

slow-speed police chase across Los

Angeles freeways which was

televised around the world.

"absolutely, 100 per cent"

not guilty to the charges. The

47-year-old celebrity had

been in jail since his arrest.

headlines after the bodies of

his 35-year-old ex-wife and

Goldman, 25, were found

lying outside her luxury

Brentwood townhouse in the

early hours of June 13, where

they had been stabbed and

slashed to death the night

The media frenzy had been

highlighted by gavel-to-gavel

television coverage of often

tedious pretrial court hear-

ings and a long jury selection

process, all leading up to the

long-awaited opening argu-

Judge Ito said those argu-

ments would be heard either

Jan. 19 or Jan. 20 depending

on when he ruled on the

marital abuse question which

he said would be either on

Jan. 17 or Jan. 18. He would

then need half a day to

address the jury and the 12

alternates, who have been in

sequestration, or court-

ordered seclusion, since

Wednesday.

Another half-day he said.

would be taken up with court

housekeeping chores in pre-

Judge Ito spent the day

hearing arguments from the

defence which wants evi-

dence of past marital discord

hear all about Simpson's

alleged abusive treatment of

Nicole since shortly after the

Deputy District Attorney

Lydia Bodin argued before the judge that O.J. Simpson

killed his ex-wife when he

found he could no longer

Ms. Bodin withdrew

allegations of 18 of the 62

explosive incidents made

public in prosecution court

papers Wednesday which she

said chronicled the alleged

pattern of abuse adding that

the remainder were ample to

prove Simpson's motive for

two met in 1977.

dominate her.

murder.

paration for the jury trial.

ments in the case.

The case made global

Simpson has pleaded

Brown Simpson.

to get

or Friday.

permitted the airforce to land in Jaffna, with a belicopter due to bring in journalists to report on the talks.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga, who signed the truce agreement with LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran eight days ago, expressed the hope that the halt in violence could be continued beyond the initial twoweek period agreed upon.

"I think we can go beyond two weeks and quickly get onto the political discussions, Ms. Kumaratunga told a small group of reporters at her Temple Trees residence after appointing the two Norwegians to head the monitoring teams.

Since winning parliamen-tary elections in August, Ms. Kumaratunga has vowed to grant "very extensive autonomy" to minority Tamils to end the ethnic conflict which has claimed over 30,000 lives in the last 23 years.

The two Norwegians, Au-dun Holm and Johan Gabrielson, were named by Ms. Kumaratunga Thursday to head committees which will monitor the truce, becoming the first Westerners to be officially involved in Sri Lanka's peace process.

The monitors are registered with the Norwegian Refugee Council, which sends people for ceasefire monitoring functions abroad. They have previously worked in Yugoslavia, Lebanon and

Mr. Ratwatte predicted the truce monitors would have little work because local military commanders had established direct bilateral contacts and were able to resolve problems without using the observers as interme-

"We have had cases of four armed LTTE cadres coming into areas near army camps. But we have settled these things and got assurances from LTTE field commanders that it will not happen

again," Mr. Ratwatte said, Previous ceasefire arrangements between the LTTE and the former United National Party government ended in failure, with both sides blaming each other for violations, and led to more bloodletting in the island's

Meanwhile, upset Sri Lankan Buddhists said Friday they are stepping up their campaign to get Pope John Paul II to withdraw remarks he made about their religion before he visits this mainly Buddhist island next week. "The campaign is hotting

up, and we have scheduled three public meetings this weekend seeking support for our stand that the Pope withdraw these remarks," Gallage Punyawardena, spokesman for the Federation of Buddhist Organisations, told Reuters Friday. He said meetings would be

California says flood damage to exceed \$300m SAN FRANCISCO (R) -

Property damage from widespread flooding in California is likely to exceed \$300 million, state officials said in their first estimate of flood A series of powerful storms

caused severe flooding in Judge Lance Ito has said both northern and southern opening arguments in the California this week inundatdouble-murder trial of U.S. ing hundreds of homes and sports legend O.J. Simpson forcing thousands of people would begin next Thursday to evacuate.

Storms, high winds and floods have caused nine deaths in the last week, state officials said.

"We expect the total to go over \$300 million," said William Rukeyser, a spokesman for the California Office of Emergency Services.

Mr. Rukeyser said the estimate was preliminary and was a "ballpark figure" including damage to public and private property.

The estimate of damage from the floods which had been declared a major disaster by President Bill Clinton is sharply higher than figures mentioned until now. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Director James Witt, in charge of the federal relief effort, Wednesday estimate damage at a minimum of \$50 million.

FEMA said over 4,090 flood victims applied for federal help in the first 24 hours since the disaster declaration.

The waters receded enough in many flooded areas Thursday to allow evacuated residents to go back to their homes to begin the task of cleaning up and totalling losses.

Police from San Francisco and other areas were on patrol in the small town of Guerneville 50 miles (80 km) precaution against possible looting.

Local officials advised residents to boil drinking water and to avoid contaminated or unrefrigerated food.

Farrakhan always denied role in Malcolm X killing

NEW YORK (R) — He paints himself as an heir to Malcoim X, the legendary fireband of black pride in the United States, but in the last days of Malcolm's life he was his worst enemy.

Now Malcolm's 34-yearold daughter Qubilah Bahiyah Shabazz — four years old when she saw her father gunned down in a Harlem ballroom — is accused of plotting to hire a hit-man to kill black separatist firebrand Louis Farrakhan.

She has pleaded not guilty and her mother says she was raised not to bate. But the irony of the charge

is heavy. During Malcolm's life, Mr. Farrakhan moved from disciple to arch-foe. Thirty years after the assassination, Mr. Farrakhan praises Malcolm, calls himself his successor and is treated as such by many in the U.S. black community who think he stands as tail and firm against white America as Malcolm did.

His comments have stirred anger and pride the way Malcolm's did and like Malcolm. who once called John Kennedy's assassination a case of "chickens coming home to roost." Mr. Farrakhan has been upbraided for remarks suppressed and the prosecu-tion which wants the jury to like calling Hitler a "wickedly great man" and Judaism "a gutter religion."

But years ago his anger was aimed at Malcolm and the question Thursday was whether the past was catching up with the present. Writing in 1965 in the black

Muslim newspaper Muhammad Speaks just months before Malcolm's murder, Mr. Farrakhan said, "the die is set and Malcolm shall not escape. Such a man as Mal-

colm is worthy of death." Mr. Farrakhan had remained faithful to black Muslim leader Elijah Muhammad while Malcolm had broken with him and started a movement of his own, a movement that unlike Mr. Farrakhan's reached out to whites to join in the fight against racism.

The assassination was allegedly planned in the Newark Mosque of Mohammad's Movement and Mr. Farrakhan preached there the night before the murder. Malcolm's family has long thought Mr. Farrakhan may have had a hand in the kill-

ing.
"I was not in any way involved in his murder. I did say those words but that's not the full statement. I said such a man as Malcolm is worthy of death and were it not for Elijah Muhammad's faith in God, it would have been so," he told ABC Television's

Barbara Walters in an interview last year. In the interview be admitted he contributed to the atmosphere of hate that surrounded Malcolm and added. "I was hurt by his assassination. I can't say that I approved and I really didn't approve. I was numb. But today looking back, Malcolm would have been much more

In press conferences that white reporters are allowed to cover, Mr. Farrakhan praises Malcolm and cloaks himself in his mantle.

valuable to us alive."

But according to a new documentary film, Brother Minister: The Assassination Of Malcolm X, there is another side to Farrakhan. The documentary shows a video made of a Farrakhan speech to his nation of Islam followers in 1993 in which he

"Was Malcolm your traitor or ours? And if we dealt with him like a nation deals with a traitor, what the hell business is it of yours? You just shut your mouth and stay out of it. Because pretty soon we are going to be a nation and a nation has got to be able to deal with cutthroats and turncoats... there are certain paths you don't cross."

held in Buddhist centres in the southern towns of Galle and Matara and another at a

leader Deng Xiaoping's bealth has declined signifi-

cantly in recent months and

be is unable to stand or walk:

one of his daughters told the

New York Times in an inter-

view published in Friday's

The daughter, whose name is Deng Rong but who has

written a biography on her

father under the pen name Xiao Rong, denied reports that the 90-year-old Chinese leader had entered a hospital

as a l'ananese newspaper re-

The comments by Ms.

Deng, who said her father's health declined daily, did lit-

tle to dispel concern that the

Chinese leader's death was

The health of Mr. Deng,

the most influential of a gen-

eration of leaders who came

to power with Mao Tsetong

in 1949, has been the focus of

intense international specula-

tion in recent months as Chi-

na prepares a transition to a

younger generation of lead-

The newspaper said Deng Rong's remarks about her

father's condition were highly

unusual for any relative of a Chinese leader to make. The

paper said Ms. Deng, who was interviewed in Beijing.

was to travel next week to

New York and to Paris to

promote the biography. It

added she appeared eager to pre-empt the issue of his

"I know the reason why

everyone is so concerned ab-

out my father's health -

that's very clear," she told

by day. People have to

understand that at this point,

"His health declines day

the paper.

ported earlier this week.

editions.

the south. "There are other protests planned of a religious nature but it would be inappropriate to divulge them at this mo-ment," he said.

ground at Moratuwa also in

Mr. Punyawardena's federation plans to lead a boycott of the Pope's visit on Jan. 20 and 21 if he does not withdraw controversial com-ments on Buddhism in his book Crossing The Threshold Of Hope published last Octo-

In his book, the Pope wrote: "The Buddhist doctrine of salvation constitutes the central point, or rather the only point of this system. Nevertheless, both the Buddhist tradition and the methods deriving from it have an almost exclusively negative soteriology (doctrine of salvation)."

Another passage reads: Buddhism is in large measure an 'atheistic' system. We do not free ourselves from evil through the good which comes from God we liberate ourselves only through detachment from the world, which is bad.

"The fullness of such a detachment is not union with God, but what is called nirvana, a state of perfect indifference with regard to the world," the Pope wrote.

1st U.S. soldier killed in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) The first American soldier killed during the four-month U.S. occupation of Haiti died Thursday morning in an exchange of gunfire with the driver of a van that drove past a tollbooth without stop-

wounded and a Haitian civilian was killed in the incident. Three U.S. soldiers involved in the international peacekeeping effort, two in Haiti and one during training in Puerto Rico, have committed suicide since the occupa-

tion began on Sept. 19. But

none had been killed until second on an American soldier during the operation. A soldier was shot in the southern town of Les Cayes by an unidentified assailant shortly

after the Americans arrived. President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, in a statement released late Thursday, offered his condolences to U.S. President Bill Clinton, to the family of the dead soldier and to his comrades and called the death a "deplorable act of violence.

UNITED NATIONS (Agescies) -The Security Council Thursday renewed until May 15 the mandate of a 136-member U.N. Observer Mission In Georgia (UNOMIG) where negotiations between the government and Abkhaz

separatists are stalemated. The vote in the 15-member A second soldier was Council was unanimous. UNOMIG works with, and monitors, a largely-Russian peacekeeping force of several thousand troops fielded by the Commonwealth of Inde-pendent States which is help-

ing implement a ceasefire and separation of forces agreement reached last May 14. Some 250,000 Georgians fled the Abkhaz region in ed by mercenaries and arms from Russia's northern Cancasus region, drove out Geor-

gian government troops in a lightning campaign. The Supreme Soviet of Abkhazia adopted a constitution last Nov. 26 declaring Abkhazia to be a "sovereign democratic state."

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, in a recent report, said the core question of Abkhazia's political status remained far from being re-

Georgia."

in second in the poll, followed by Mr. Alexander and former Housing Secretary Jack Kemp, who unsuccessfully challenged Mr. Bush in

Mr. Kemp put out feelers when he met Thursday with political advisers, but he lienated himself from the party by coming out against California's anti-immigration bill and generally failing to show proper party discipline.

Wisconsin and Massachusetts governors Tommy Thompson and William Weld are also potential contenders, and California Governor Pete Wilson's campaign against illegal immigration has boosted his national pro-

Governors, always popular among voters in presidential elections, might fare particularly well in 1996 if the antiincumbent fever of the midterm elections continues to turn the heat on those

bums" in Congress. But for now Sen. Dole, who ran unsuccessfully in 1980 and 1988, is the favoured front-runner and a recent poll showed him running neck-and-neck with Mr.

Clinton. Some have raised concerns about Sen. Dole's advanced years -- 71 -- but by 1996 he will be 73 and that age was no senator lobbied the delegates liability for one of the most popular presidents in recent

story, Ronald Reagan. Meanwhile, arch conservative Jesse Helms chaired his first Senate Foreign Relations Committee meeting Wednesday but steered clear of any confrontation with the administration of President Clinton.

Sen. Helms, who said last year that Mr. Clinton was

Deng's health has declined — daughter | Michael Jackson fireworks display in nearby Tiananmen Square around the Oct. 1 National Day last

Mr. Deng was believed to be suffering from advanced Parkinson's disease and perhaps diabetes and kidney distunc-

en imminent crisis in Mr. he's 90 years old, an old man. Deng's health, although And someday there will be a Western embassies have increased their monitoring of Mr. Deng's daughter said major hospitals

her father can no longer walk but refuses to use a wheel-"He needs two people to support him... he feels that after he sits in a wheelchair, he won't be able to get up tion to younger leaders led by President Jiang Zemin. again. It's the natural order,

She said her father remained at home at the family compound in Beijing.
On Thursday, the first picture of Mr. Deng shown in

China for almost a year appeared on the front page of a Shanghai newspaper beside the headline "Comrade Xiaoping is healthy." The picture in the Liberation Daily was apparently

published to counter intense rumours in the past several days that China's reclusive patriarch was ill in the hospit-The picture showed Mr. Deng sitting in a chair in

U.N. renews Georgia observer mission

solved and only a few hun-

dred Georgian refugees had

so far been able to return to

He said that, in view of the

intensity and proximity of the

crisis in Russia's breakaway

Caucasus region of

Chechenya, where fierce

fighting had been raging for

the past month, "it is likely

that political efforts to

address the Abkhazia issue

will remain in suspense for

But the secretary-general said he was convinced nego-

tiations between the two

sides were the only way this

complex issue could be satis-

encourages Dr. Ghali to con-

tinue his efforts aimed at a

comprehensive settlement of

the conflict over Abkhazia,

sovereignty and territorial in-

tegrity of the Republic of

to comply with commitments

concerning the return of re-fugees and displaced persons

in accordance with an agree-

ment signed in Moscow last

It also calls on both parties

'respecting fully the

the time being,"

factorily resolved.

Abkhazia.

Deng Xiaoping

day when he passes away."

Beijing's Zhongnanhai leadership compand watching a

LOS ANGELES (R) — Pop star Michael Jackson filed \$100 million lawsuit against Paramount Pictures Corp, producers for its tabloid TV

Mr. Deng's failure to appear in public at the spectacular fireworks show sparked rumours at the time that he was either seriously ill or had died. Shanghai's stock market phinged as a result. The New York Times said

An unnamed Western diplomat in Beijing told the Times there were no signs of

The diplomat said the Community Party leadership bad completed its preparations for Mr. Deng's death and was confident that it could manage a stable transi-

Mr. Deng's daughter, in the same interview, defended her father's record and spoke of his past mistakes only where he has acknowledged

She defended her father's decision to order military force used against student demonstrators in 1989, but said China's inexperience in riot control contributed to the

tragic confrontation.
"It was a tragedy. No Chinese person wanted to see something happen like what happened then. Many people died, both among the ordinary people and among the military, and some of them died very cruel deaths," she

the Abkhaz side to "acceler-

ate the process significantly.'

Meanwhile, hundreds of

armed men gathered in the

Georgian capital of Tbilisi

Friday, saying they were

ready to force the breakaway Republic of Abkhazi back

into Georgia, the Interfax

The men gathered outside

News Agency said here.

the headquarters of the National Liberation Front,

an organisation headed by

former Prime Minister Ten-

giz Sigua and Defence Minis-

ter Tengiz Kitovani.
Interfax quoted some of

the men as saying buses were

ready to drive them to west-

em Georgia, near to Abkha-

own military drive against

Last week the breakaway

Abkhazian government ac-

cased Georgian militants of

staging several "terrorist in-

cursions" onto its territory,

blowing up a power line and

kidnapping several Abkhaz

nen and women.

Abkhazia declared its inde-

pendence from Georgia in

1992 and defeated Georgian

troops in a year-long war,

unfit as commander-in-chief.

Abkhazian secessionists

Oprah admits smoking coacine in her 20s

WASHINGTON (R) Oprah Winfrey, host of the most-watched daytime U.S. television talk show, admitted during a programme to be aired Friday that she had smoked cocaine in her early twenties, the Washington Post reported. The paper in its Priday edition said Winfrey, who turns 41 this month, broke down Wednesday while taping a programme about recovering from drug abuse and admitted that she had also used drugs. The programme, taped in Chicago, dealt with the subject of women who have had drug problems. Four mothers were the guests, including Patrice . Gaines, a Washington Post reporter who has written a book about her own troubled life. Warrey's show, which has been nationally syndicated since 1986, is characterised by a personal tone. For instance. Winfrey revealed on the show that she had been raped at age 9 by a cousin, and then molested by others close to the family until she was 14. Deborah Johns, a. " spokeswoman for the show. said that on the programme taped Wednesday, "Oprah made a spontaneous admission to mothers battling drug addiction that she had also used drugs." Winfrey's admission came after a discussion with one woman, identified only as Charmaine, who said she currently smokes crack cocaine, but isn't sure whether she is an addict because she is still functioning in her daily life, 2 the paper said.

Joplin, Žappa reach **Rock Hall of Fame**

NEW YORK (R) - Jains

السور فخ

Joplin, Frank Zappa, Led Zeppelin, Neil Young, Martha and the Vandellas and the Allman Brothers Band were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. The surviving member of led Zeppelin reunited to play several of their 1970s classics in celebration of the glittering ceremony at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. Rolling Stone publisher Jann Wenner used the tenth annual induction dinner as the forum to announce the opening of the hall's permanent museum in Cleveland on Sept. 1, 1995. Soul singer Al Green, who was indicted into the Hall of Fame by Natalie Cole, began the show singing his hit Take Me To The River. Melissa Etheridge paid tribute to Joplin by singing Piece Of My Heart accompanying herself on accoustic guitar. "She was the only goodess in a sea of rock gods," said Etheridge, who accepted the award for Joplin, who died in 1970. Lou Reed, believed to be fighting back bitterness over not . being inducted to the hall as a member of the Velvet Underground, gave a speech inducting the late Frank Zappa. "I respected him and I know he respected me," said Reed after comparing Zappa to cr Andy Warhol. "I never wanted to do this," said Led Zeppelin singer Robert Plant after accepting his award, "I thought we'd always be re-

April 4. It particularly urges with Russia's covert help. U.S. Republicans rush for presidential bids

WASHINGTON (AFP) -Republicans still relishing the trouncing they gave the Democrats in November are now climbing over each other to get their names on the ballot for the 1996 presidential race.

Candidates traditionally announce in autumn, but smelling blood from what looks like Bill Clinton's lameduck presidency, many of the Republican Party's top guns rang in the New York by getting a jump on things. Robert Dole, Senate majority leader and two-time presidential candidate,

pushed ahead on his longanticipated campaign Thursday by forming a fund-raising committee. "I haven't yet officially thrown my hat in the ring, but you could say this is the first step," said Sen. Dole, adding he would make it offi-

cial by April. Texas Senator Phil Gramm, a staunch conservative who has long coveted a national political role, is expected to announce at the end of February, followed by former Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander and Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Spec-

Former Vice President Dan Quayte has made his White House ambitions and his wife. Marilyn, came out swinging at all potential rivals this week, targeting Sen. Gramm in particular. "He is not very well

even among Republicans themselves," she said at a business lunch where she was filling in for her husband. Mr. Quayle was recuperating from an appendectomy, but his aides have said he will

thought of in the Senate,

announce his bid as soon as he is back on his feet. And then of course there

are the "Newt for President" buttons popping up around Washington, where Republican lawmakers have all but deified new House of Representatives Speaker Newt

Mr. Gingrich is widely credited with the mid-term win which delivered his party from minority status for the first time in 40 years, but he is unlikely to give up the glory for a long-shot presidential bid this time around.

Moreover, his triggerhappy style has raised eyebrows among members of his own party - who are happy nonetheless to ride on his coat-tails.

Last week, Sen. Gramm won a straw poll at a Republican convention in Louisiana and he immediately praised Mr. Gingrich's "Contract With America" platform as the party's manifesto. The poll gave Sen. Gramm

a whopping 72 per cent of the delegate votes, well ahead of 12 other likely candidates. Those unlucky — and unannounced — contenders were outck to note that Sen. Gramm, 52, was the only one so far to voice his intentions and pointed out that the

hard for weeks ahead of the convention. "I'm not certain I'm a candidate yet, so Phil Gramm is (and) he worked hard at Sen. Dole said on CNN Television, adding: "He probably won the first of a thousand straw polls we're

going to have between now and the time it really counts.' Arch-conservative commentator Pat Buchanan came reserved his harsh comments for the news media, claiming that he has been demonised in the press since his Republican Party swept the Nov. 8 elections. "Our friends in the news

The Council resolution re- zia. The front has said it is

media have been busy speculating ever since Nov. 8 about the dark and dangerous things that they are so sure are about to happen," Sen. Helms said. "Well, that perhaps was wishful thinking... which almost always ends up being

wrong this time." Sen. Helms has distingnished himself in his 22-year career as a firebrand anti-Communist, a champion of right-wing leaders in Latin American and an opponent of sanctions against the apar-

wrong and it's certainly

theid regime in South Africa. He sought to block an openly gay cabinet appointee he called a "damn lesbian" and pledged to reexamine cooperation with the United Nations, which he called the longtime nemesis of millions of Americans."

China is likely to be one of the first places Sen. Helms will part company with the administration, pushing a more sympathetic line on Taiwan which is sure to rub Beijing the wrong way,

according to analysts. Sen. Helms also opposes U.S. participation in U.N. peacekeeping missions and was likely to use his legendary parliamentary skills to block diplomatic appointees

he deems too liberal. Sen. Helms was also expected to be much more critical of the deal on North Korea's nuclear programme.



JANUARY 14, 19%

investigation in allegations of child trace entertainer, the of a year-long child rules investigation and current announced by the child mber no charges with ad had emphatically de he latest reports. After the legal and the latest reports and the latest reports. Sing to take legal action A Lecklese wempered regis , jackson may on his threat with a that named M nd a fellow Hard Con Cer Paramount and distributes to Los Anceles radio te LABC AN and mon K-show hosts. It stand on ned filed the case by 5 2 Standerous, vide nelly-fabricated son the eventence of a D. a "Arrased" videotaje medity showing the sign igagine in illegal on with a child

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Murayama returns from cordial U.S. summit Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama returned Friday from an upbeat but lowprofile summit with U.S. President Bill Clinton that Japanese diplomats hope signifies bilateral ties are back on a sounder footing. "I think it is a very good

thing," a senior Japanese diplomat said aboard Mr. Murayama's special government plane en route to Tokvo when asked his view of the relatively low level of attention paid by the U.S. media to Wednesday's summit in Washington.

Summits, the diplomat said, should not be about high-profile friction but should provide a chance to exchange views on issues of mutuai concern.

In a sharp shift from last February's stony standoff over trade, Mr. Clinton and Mr. Murayama took pains to put mutual security and economic intersts first at this week's talks.

"Step by step, the two nations are building a new postcold war relationship," said an editorial in the Englishlanguage Japan Times. The summit "has advanced this effort in a rather quiet way."

The summit, one of three meetings between the two leaders set for 1995, comes at a time when some analysts say the bilateral alliance is weakening due to domestic political woes in both countries and growing attention by both to Asian nations outside Japan.

Japanese officials said they hoped the summit would start a process of discussions aimed at strengthening ties.

What we are proposing to the U.S. government (is that) we should like to have a more constructive and positive relationship," Foreign Ministry spokesman Terusuke Terada told reporters in Washington after the summit.

"How can we do that? Partly through enhanced global cooperation," Mr. Terada said. "At the same we maintain interest in having more policy coordination. A good example of that is coordination with respect to North Korea, and progressively we may add more

North Korea in fact topped the agenda at the summit, where the two leaders



Tomiichi Murayama

emphasised joint efforts to contain North Korea as a disruptive force in the Asia-Pacific region. Economic friction took a

Mr. Clinton played down Tokyo's trade surplus and hailed recent pacts on specific sectors under the so-called Economic Framework, a 1993 agreement which spawned much acrimonious debate. The president said the surplus was "too high" but attributed the bulge largely to Japan's sluggish economy.

He welcomed a pact, clinched on the eve of the summit, to open Japan's huge financial services sectors to foreign firms.

Japanese newspapers Friday welcomed the change in mood.

"The special characteristic of the U.S.-Japan summit was that it avoided focusing on economic issues," said an editorial in financial daily Nihon Keizai Shimbun. "We would like to welcome if there has been a change in the Clinton administration's

policy towards Japan." But while in a lower key, the summit did take note of a remaining point of disharmony in bilateral ties — a sticky dispute over access to Japan's market for cars and car parts.

of Japan's \$60 billion annual surplus with the United States, are set to resume later this month after stalling when the two sides failed to reach

agreement in late September. The two leaders also agreed to coopeate for the success of the next meeting of the Asia-pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum next November in Osaka,

western Japan. But they addressed no specifics on how Tokyo, often criticised for an inability to take diplomatic leadership, would mediate members' diverse views on implementing last year's agreement to tear down trade barriers by the vear 2020.

Meanwhile Mr. Muravama returned home Friday to find his own Socialist Party teetering on the brink of a break-

Sadao Yamahana, Mr. Murayama's predecessor as party chairman, announced a list of 25 Socialist lawmakers, including himself, who will form a separate voting bloc in

But Mr. Yamahana urged the party not to expel the rebels, saying they were the forerunners of a new party which the Socialists hoped to create for their long-term survival in Japan's turbulent political landscape. "I understand that the par-

Talks on automotive trade, ty has not condoned any which accounts for two-thirds separate bloc in the past,"

Mr. Yamahana told reporters. "But I hope the party will make a prudent judgement because such a considerable number of deputies are involved."

The 24 rebels - 17 members in the House of Representatives and seven in the House of Councillors account for about 17 per cent of the 138 Socialist deputies.

Mr. Murayama, who has supported the idea of launching a new Socialist-led party with liberals and academics - but at a more cautious pace — is to consult aides before the party's executive committee discusses the

problem on Thursday. While in Washington he urged a possible expulsion of the rebels, calling the breakaway move "rash and immature.

Construction Koken Nosaka demanded a purge. But another Socialist abinet member, Labour Minister Manso Hamamoto, called on the party to refrain from a "devastating quarrel."

Mr. Yamahana has reaffirmed his support for the gov-ernment of Mr. Murayama, elected as a compromise premier in June by a coalition of convenience numerically dominated by the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

The Socialists, formally called the Social Democratic Party (SDP), have wielded the swing vote in parliament since the scandal-tainted LDP lost its 37-year grip on power in general elections in July 1993.

But they face the prospect of disastrous losses in the next general elections, likely by the end of this year, due to an electoral system they themselves helped overhaul.

An anti-LDP coalition, led by power-broker and former LDP Secretary Genral Ichiro Ozawa, had governed Japan until the SDP bolted from the group and took the LDP as bedmates.

The anti-LDP coalition forced through parliament a bill to replace multiple-seat constituencies with singleseat districts in a move to curb corruption.

The LDP still remains the biggest force in parliament with 200 seats in the 511-seat lower house, against the SDP's 70, and 95 in the upper house. . .

Chirac makes pitch for left vote

PARIS (R) — Conservative presidential candidate Jacques Chirac sought to woo French leftist voters Friday, calling for stronger action to combat unemployment and

poverty. A new opinion poll, meanwhile, suggested that Mr. Chirac could reach a run-off against hot favourite Prime Minister Edouard Balladur in the April-May election, putting him level with or ahead of any Socialist contender on the first ballot.

Paris Mayor Chirac denounced Mr. Balladur for maintaining a "phoney suspense" about his so far undeclared candidacy and said the premier's policies were inadequate to confront France's social, economic and political woes.

Urging a greater focus on the underpriveleged and denouncing technocracy, he continued a populist pitch launched this week with the publication of his book France For All.

Mr. Chirac, twice prime minister, denied he was a sudden convert to leftist social concerns, saying his Gaullist RPR party had long stressed such issues.

"Today we face a fractured France, so this means we need a social aspect... it has become essential," he said in an interview with France-Inter Radio.

He criticised Mr. Balladur for holding out the prospect of cutting unemployment by a million over the next five years without saying how. The number of jobless now stands at a near-record

3.3 million or 12.6 per cent of

the work force. Latest polls show Mr. Chirs chances of reaching a May 7 run-off against Mr. Balladur have improved.

A poli for the weekly Le Point, taken this week amid a blitz of publicity over Mr. Chirac's book, showed he would score about 20 per cent in the first round, up about four points from recent surveys. Mr. Balladur is polling between 25 and 29 per cent.

The IPSOS poll showed Mr. Chirac either beating or running level with any Socialist candidate, including former Culture Minister Jack Lang and former party chief Lionel Jospin.

But the same poll showed Mr. Balladur would beat Mr. Chirac in a run-off by 66 to 34 per cent. Mr. Chirac's backers reckon he would be able to pick up votes if thrown into a direct confrontation with the more reserved Balla-

The left has been casting about for a saviour since former presidential frontrunner Jacques Delors, outgoing head of the European Commission, decided last month not to run.

Mr. Chirac conceded that powerful Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, the most popular cabinet minister, was backing Mr. Balladur for the presidency along with most of the centre-right cabinet.

The only supporters Mr. Chirac named for himself were Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, Culture Minister Jacques Toubon and National Assembly speaker Philippe

Seguin.

Mr. Chirac sniped at Mr. Balladur's boast that his government was the most reformist in decades, saying "the reforms that remain to be made are far greater."

Mr. Balladur says France is on the road to recovery, in stark contrat to Mr. Chirac's message that the nation is in crisis.

A Balladur-Chirac run-off would be the first allconservative contest since 1969, when Gaullist Georges Pompidou defeated centrist Alain Poher after Socialist Gaston Defferre had fallen at the first hurdle with just five per cent.

In a letter published by the newspaper Le Monde, Mr. Pasqua told Mr. Chirac, his longtime political colleague. that Mr. Balladur "appears to me the person best placed to defend our ideas and unite a broad majority of the French peoples.'

Mr. Pasqua said in the letter he had taken his decision in the national interest and would try to preserve the unity of the Gaullist RPR movement, to which Mr. Chirac and Mr. balladur also belong.

"I will act with the firm intention of working, when the moment comes, to reunite all those who belong (to the Gaullist movement). so that the victory of one of our people does not translate into a defeat for the others," he wrote.

Political commentators said Mr. Pasqua was hoping to obtain the premiership in exchange for supporting Mr. Balladur's bid.

Mr. Pasqua campaigned strongly towards the end of last year for U.S.-stvie primary elections to be held to choose a single candidate for the French right before the election campaigns themselves begin. But to no avail.

"Edouard Balladu: and you took the decision to stand, and it is not for me to judge that. You know how much I regret this situation," Ms. Pasqua said in the letter. dated Thursday.

"All Gaullists are therefore confronted with a choice and a decision which is difficult and has serious consequences," he wrote.

Recalling that he had sup-ported Mr. Chirac in 1974 elections, Mr. Pasqua said he had done so because he believed Mr. Chirac was the mostly likely candidate to win for the French right.

"For the same reasons which have made me follow you since 1974. I have decided to give my support to Edouard Balladur... I want, in this campaign, to safeguard the unity and the future of our movement, which takes precedence over the fate of each of us individual-

"I am telling you my decision privately before making it public. I know that you understand the reasons, and above all that which has always inspired us: The interest of the country must come

The letter ended. "Yours in All Friendship, My Dear Jacques."

Rao says up to India, Pakistan to end Kashmir row

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao said Friday India would accept U.S. help in settling a dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir, but that the two countries would eventually have to resolve differences

themselves. U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said Thursday Washington hoped that by forging closer ties with both Pakistan and India it could help the longtime foes avoid a fourth, and catastrophic,

Mr. Rao was asked by a reporter before the start of a meeting with Mr. Perry Friday if the United States had a role to play in helping India and Pakistan resolve their dispute over Kashmir.

We take help from every where. All friends help, offer help." Mr. Rao said. "But eventually it's India and Pakistan who have to settle it themselves.

India and Pakistan, which have fought three wars since 1947, both stake a claim to Kashmir.

Pakistan wants the issue to be settled through a United Nations-sponsored plebiscite. India rejects a plebiscite and says the dispute should be settled through bilateral

talks, as agreed by the countries' leaders in 1972.

Indian Armed Forces in the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir have been fighting Muslim rebels who launched a rebellion four years ago in which more than 17,000 people have been kil-

India accuses Pakistan of training and arming the separatists. Islamabad says it offers only political and u-

plomatic support. Mr. Perry said Thursday that the United States was "fearful" there could be another war between the neighbours, and wanted to do

everything it could to reduce the risk.

The U.S. Defence Secretary said that by visiting Pakistan and India this week he hoped to help improve relations with both countries so they would consider the United States a trusted friend. Mr. Perry said he delivered a letter from U.S. President

Siil Clinton to Mr. Rao. Mr. Clinton urged the Indian leader to support an agreement India and the United States signed Thursday calling for stronger military ties and increased cooperation in defence production and research, Mr. Perry said.

Minister hints at flexibility in Bangladesh crisis

emment was prepared to be flexible over a constitutional problem in resolving a debili-tating 10-month-old political

The opposition, headed by Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina, has demanded that Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia step aside and allow a neutral caretaker government to supervise fresh

general elections. Mrs. Zia announced on Dec. 29, a day after the opposition submitted resignations from parliament en masse, that she was ready to step down 30 days before

general elections due in 1996. That left an unresolved constitutional problem if Mrs. Zia's offer was accepted by the opposition, which has so far rejected it. The con-

that the Bangladesh gov- minister, no one can officially wield power.

Negotiators have worked late into the night trying to resolve the problem over the past few days, with Mrs. Zia saying publicly she would not accept a constitutional amendement to allow President Abdur Rahman Biswas to head a netural government

to supervise elections. But Commerce and Information Minister Shamsul Islam said in an interview Friday that Mrs. Zia's stand

might be flexible.
"We can correct the situation in parliament. We can make changes to the law," he said. "There is still scope for discussion about that," Mr. Islam added in reference to a

constitutional amendment. Ms. Hasina led the opposition in a walk-out of parlia-

DHAKA (R) — A Cabinet er lies with the prime minis-minister suggested Friday ter. If there is no prime ladesh National Party (BNP) of rigging a by-election, evidence she said of the ruling party being prepared to do anything to stay in power.

The Awami League campaign for new elections has grown steadily more aggressive since the walk-out. In December and early this month, it staged a series of strikes that virtually closed down Dhaka, the capital city of seven million people. It has threatened to stage

more strikes later this month unless Mrs. Zia steps down. But Mr. Islam said it was now up to Sheikh Hasina to lead the opposition back into parliament so a solution could be found to a crisis that has worried businessmen and foreign aid donors who fund nearly all of poor Bang-

ladesh's development

tion, we all have to go back to parliament," he said. "We can't solve this problem on

Mr. Islam said the government had made all the concessions while the Awami League had made none and that Mrs. Zia's agreement to step down ahead of general elections gave Mrs. Hasina what she wanted and allowed the opposition to claim vic-

"Now we expect the opposition to act as statesmen in the interest of the country and come back to parliament," he said.

Parliamentary Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali has delayed a decision on whether to accept the opposition resignations, analysts and diplomats said he has thus gained more time for negotiators to hammer out a solution be-

budget. "To institutionalise a solustitution says executive powment last February after tween the two foes. Russia, U.S. and others fail on chemical arms pact

LONDON (R) -- Russia, the United States and most other countries have failed to ratify a treaty designed to banish chemical weapons from the face of the earth in time for it

to take effect this week. The treaty, which bans the use, production, and storage of chemical weapons and provides for tough verification measures to prevent cheating, was signed by more than 120 countries amid much fanfare in Paris exactly two years

Chemical weapons, often known as the "poor man's atomic bomb" because they can be cheap and easy to make, were first used with devastating effect in the tren-

ches of World War I. At the Paris conference the declared aim was that the treaty would come into force after two years once national parliaments in 65 countries had ratified the agreement. Diplomats said this was not now likely to happen until

They said only 19 had so Maldives — are hardly major

far signed including Spain, Australia, Germany and Mexico. Many of the others who have completed ratification — like Fiji, Mauritius, the Cook Islands and the

players in arms control. Russia and the United States, which along with Iraq are the only countries to admit possession of chemical weapons, had pushed hard to complete the treaty along with other leading U.N. members such as France, Britain and China. But despite widespread

concern that weapons of mass destruction could fall into the hands of terror groups or rogue states in an unstable post-cold war world, none of these countries has yet ratified the agreement.

Diplomats said the reason in most countries was that national parliaments had been swamped with more pressing business.

next year at the earliest. ago. Pope energised by rapturous Philipines

MANILA (R) — Pope John Paul, apparently energised by the rapturous welcome he has received in the Philippines. showed little sign Friday of the ill health that has plagued

Officials said he ignored clevators installed at the Malacanang Presidential Palace and walked up a long flight of stairs to meet President Fidel Ramos. In the evening, drawn onto balcony of the apostolic nunciature, where he is

to the singing. sala oce 10
caring Tappa
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caring I ne "Filipinos have marve..."
Woices," he told the singers. The Pope and Mr. Ramos met alone for 20 about mihis award. _ nutes, seeking through per-

sonal contact to heal a rift between state and church in Asia's only Christian coun-

"I briefed the holy father on the social reform agenda of the government and my commitment to implement social reforms hand-in-hand with the continuing economic progress of the country...,"
Mr. Ramos said in a state-

ment. A church statement said the two were expected to discuss the "boiling popula-tion issue," but Mr. Ramos did not say if they discussed in detail the government's birth-control campaign. which has brought him into

conflict with the church. Officials quoted the 74year-old Pope John Paul as -calling "unique" his recepfirst stop in a gruelling fournation tour that will also take out to harm the Pope. him to Papua New Guinea. Australia and Sri Lanka.

More than a million people turned out to welcome him Wednesday and crowds continued to pack the streets as he travelled from event to event, erupting in cheers as he waved at them from inside his armoured "popemobile."

"Seeing him so close was a gift from God," said Lina Estella, 67, who travelled from Zambales, north of Manila, to see the Pope for the second time. She also saw him during his first papal visit to Manila in 1981.

A government minister said he was satisfied security was sufficient, despite a hunt

tion in the Philippines, the for a man of Palestinian origin named as head of a gang

Senior security sources said agents were hunting Abdul Mahmood Abdul Karim, a 26-year-old electronics expert, and his Filipina girlfriend. They said he carried a Pakistani passport.

The Pope seemed to get renewed energy from a mass for youth leaders and a meeting with tens of thousands of delegates to the 10th World Youth Day.

He stood for a long time during a mass for foreign and Filipino youth leaders and paid close attention as a student leader attacked politicians for graft and the church . for refusing to listen to its younger members.





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Nuclear double standards

RECENT REPORTS about a Russian agreement to complete an Iranian nuclear facility at a cost of \$800 million must have alarmed many governments for fear that the Iranian nuclear programme could end up becoming military. We can understand and even sympathise with the regional and international anxiety over the apparent determination of Tehran to go nuclear. What we cannot comprehend though is the double standards being observed on this issue under which some countries seem to have a sacrosanct right to develop and possess nuclear weapons and others which cannot.

We are not thinking only about Israel's acquisition of nuclear bombs, but generally about the whole nuclear club which seems to be a privileged association for some of the countries and not for others. If there is something awful about developing mass destruction arsenals, then it should be terrible for all the states that still have them and not serve only as grounds to prevent others from enjoying the same capability. There had been considerable noise made about India and Pakistan going nuclear. Before these two countries there was an equal concern about China's nuclear programme. The international fury about these three countries have since subsided after it became amply clear that they insist on the application of one single standard on all countries of the world. Belatedly, the alarm was sounded against North Korea's plan to develop its nuclear capability as well. To be sure, other countries in Latin America are also on the verge of having their own nuclear bombs for one reason or another. Africa and the Middle East cannot be expected to lag behind forever unless and until a more satisfactory system of nuclear control is articulated and executed in a fair manner. Above all, there is no more room for a double standard in this context. We either outlaw all mass destruction weapons including nuclear warheads or we do not ever. But to keep on preaching the gospel that certain countries can possess them is simply no effective way to reverse nuclear proliferation.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE QATARI foreign ministry's undersecretary's visit to Jordan reflects the reality that Qatar and Jordan continue to maintain strong brotherly relations regardless of inter-Arab differences and the consequences of the Gulf crisis, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The paper said relations between Jordan and Qatar continue to prosper with new protocols that regulate cultural, economic and political relations and this was reaffirmed by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker in his talks with the Qatari official this week. The Qatari official's statement that his country was counting on close cooperation with Jordan and his suggestion that the two countries set up a joint bank and a joint university displays Doha's resolve to bolster inter-Arab ties and shows that Qatari rulers respect and appreciate Jordan's policies at all levels, added the daily. In order to further bolster bilateral ties, the two countries are now involved in preparing the ground for the higher joint committee meeting in Doha in April, said the daily, which expressed belief that these strong ties would open the door wide for Jordanian-Gulf ties to prosper.

AL DUSTOUR daily bitterly criticised Israel for refusing to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. There is no justification for Israel not to sign the treaty which has been accepted by all other countries of the Middle East, stressed the paper. Israel is rumoured to possess at least 200 nuclear warheads, which are used to threaten Arab states and exercise pressure on them to make peace with the Jewish state, said the paper. It is ironic to see Israel demanding that countries as far away from Tel Aviv as Iran halt their nuclear programmes while it persists on rejecting the Non-Proliferation Treaty, continued the paper. The paper said that the atmosphere of peace should not be marred or allowed to be poisoned by Israel's adamant stand. Real peace, it said, requires the Jewish state to allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities and join the Arab states in seeking a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

King, Rabin talks confirm commitment to peace accord

NO DOUBT Israeli Prime Minister Yıtzhak Rabin's visit to Amman and his talks with His Majesty King Hussein late Thursday served as a reaffirmation of Israeli and Jordanian commitment to implementing the Oct. 26 peace treaty the two countries signed. Comments made by His Majesty and Mr. Rabin after their talks clearly indicated this to be the case. As we also understand, Mr. Rabin wanted to touch base with the new government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and discuss means to accelerate the implementation of the

Mr. Rabin's visit itself was a resounding reminder to everyone that Jordan and Israel are also determined to make good their pledge not to allow peace between them to be a cold peace. The visit was arranged in a matter of hours in direct contacts between King Hussein and the Israeli prime minister and there appeared to have little in the way of protocol or any other delicacies that stood in the way of the head of a government of a country with which Jordan is at peace flying into the Kingdom and leaving after a round of cordial talks as the case should be in any event. What is of immediate interest to the man of the street in

Jordan is whether the visit helped advance the cause of improving his lot, and whether Mr. Rabin's talks with the King covered any of those issues. But then, the reality remains that the peace treaty on its own is no document that guarantees economic returns of peace; it is something that restores Jordan's territorial and water rights, ending decades of tensions and apprehension as to the intentions of Israel, where hardline Likudniks had been touting the

"Jordan-is-Palestine" theory.

Beyond that, it is largely up to Jordan and Jordanians to work towards achieving the national economic objectives in the climate of peace, stability and security that was brought in by the peace treaty. And that is where we all should focus on. Quite realistically, we simply cannot expect anyone to dump millions of dollars in our country and hope to pick up from there.

First and foremost, capital does not come to any country for sentimental reasons. Sound business logic and hopes of lucrative returns unimpeded by government controls and bureaucracy are the factors that would prompt any

businessman worth his salt to invest in any country. As such, we have to look inwards and see whether Jordan, as a such, we have to look inwards and see whether Jordan, as a country, government and people, offers such facilities. Sadly, we have to go a long way ahead before we could say that. However, as we can judge from the hectic pace of work conducted by the Royal Commission for Reform and Modernisation chained by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, we have taken major strides, but the pace of the moves from that point is lacking in speed.

Hopefully, the government of Sharif Zeid and Parliament would move quickly to endorse and enact the necessary amendments to legislation and new laws that offer high incentives to investors, both local and foreign. As experts repeatedly affirm, the race for international capital is getting too fierce and it would take an extra effort on the part of Jordan to invite some of the moving capital into investments in the Kingdom.

At the same time, it was heartening to hear Mr. Rabin talking about quick moves to arrive at a trade agreement and predict that Jordan would soon be able to export its products to Israel. That is one area where Jordan would have a slight edge if its private and public sectors adopt careful steps and adopt a determined approach that addresses the quality requirements of Israeli importers.

On the political front, it is a safe assumption that Mr. Rabin discussed with King Hussein the problems Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are facing in implementing their autonomy accord and that the Israeli prime minister sought to benefit from the viewpoints of His Majesty. While Jordan has no direct role in the affair, it is only true that Mr. Rabin would like to draw from the immense experience of the King as the best conceptual means to go about doing it. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who is reportedly due in Jordan soon after months of speculation over the state of ties between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), might also want to hear the King's views on the issue (at least that is what one would expect Mr. Arafat to do in an atmosphere of coherent relations and coordination for the benefit of Palestinians and Jordanians).





People expect new government to keep its promises

By Elia Nasrallah

THE LOCAL Arabic press tackled a variety of topics in the past week in editorials and in columnists' articles. These mainly focused on the formation and mission of the new government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, domestic issues, pan-Arab affairs and the peace pro-

In discussing the new government, Saleh Al Qallab, a writer in Al Dustour said that Jordanians expect the new government to keep its promises to the public. The writer said that in light of past experiences, one cannot expect everything to be carried out due to delays by Parliament in ratification of laws. We expect from the new government at least the minimum level of action in dealing with all abuses and violations of democracy, corruption and soaring prices, said the writer. He said the new government also ought to give due attention to the farmers and their problems and other issues of which the new prime minister is fully aware.

This view was echoed by Hussein Abu Rumman, a writer in Al Ra'i, who said the public wants the government to deal promptly with the economic situation and the soaring prices as well as the deterioration in the democratic process in the country. The writer said that His Majesty the King's letter of designation to the new government was comprehensive and pointed out a great deal of tasks that should be implemented to bolster the role of institutions and ensure the rule of law. These, he said, require relentless efforts from the new government.

Ali Safadi, a writer in Al Dustour, demanded that the new government ensure

soaring prices and improve the social environment as a whole. The writer said that most citizens are optimistic that the many promises that have been given them be-fore would be fulfilled by the new government, especially as it is apparently supported by the majority of the Lower House of Parliament members.

Mohammad Ibrahim Daoud, a writer in Al Dustimetables for the families who might have some children in the unversity and others in schools. The present situation does not give time or chance to the heads of these families to plan for vacations.

Nazih Oousus, a writer in Sawt Al Shaab, drew attention to the collapse of the bridge near the Seventh Circle, describing that as a dangerous incident. He said

THE WEEK IN PRINT

tour, said that the prime minister has promised a complete overhaul of the social, political and economic situation in the country. Statements and promises are one thing but keeping them is another and the new government is called on to realise all its promises and bolster its relations with the legislative authority to achieve that aim, said the writer. He said that every one expects the government to commit itself to ensuring social justice and

equality among the public. Poverty and unemployment are the main issues facing the new government and these can only be so addressed through the application of an open economic policy without any complication, said Ahmad Shaker, a writer in Al Dustour. The government includes a good number of experienced members who had served in former governments and these, he added, can no doubt enable Sharif Zeid to carry out his programmes with confi-

Hayat Attiyeh, a writer in Al Dustour, drew attention to the fact that schools and universities have different programmes for midyear or end of year holidays. The winer said the

that full investigation ought to be conducted not only by the Amman Municipality, which is sponsoring the project, also by the contractors and engineers associations which issue licences for such projects and approve the qualifications of engineers and consultancy offices. Collapse of a building in Nazzal district recently also points to some de-fects in laws governing the construction business in Jordan, he added.

Munes Razzaz, a writer in Al Dustour, commented on the outcome of a meeting held by Arab interior ministers in Tunis and their statements reflecting their determination to deal sev-erely with acts of violence and extremism. The writer said the conference ought to have been attended by Arab ministers in charge of their respective countries' economies because they were needed there to point out that violence and extremism is a natural outcome of the disorganisation of economies, social issues and corruption. Dealing with terrorism through security means alone can never achieve any result and the Arab states ought to give due attention to the reasons behind violent acts

Tareq Masarweh said that the Jordanian people support the Chechens in their desperate fight for freedom. The columnist, who writes for Al Ra'i daily, said that the Chechens are seeking freedom and independence and end of hegemony in all matters; and through their heroic stand they are winning the sympathy and support of the majority of nations, he

The Chechens require from Jordan not mere words of support because sympathy does not help their struggle for freedom to end successfully, said Issa Shueibi in Al Dustour. The writer said that Jordamans ought to arrange for meaningful and material support for the Chechens as soon as possible to help them fight off he aggres-Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak

Rabin's visit to Jordan, a writer in Al Ra'i said that Jordanians are largely disappointed with the slow pace of the peace process and are frustrated for not seeing any good results of the peace treaty with the Jewish state. Sultan Al Hattab said that numerous issues seem to be still suspended in the air and nothing has been achieved on the ground since the signing of the treaty last October. Furthermore, Jordan's port of Aqaba is suffering because the peace treaty allowed the visitors coming through Israel or Israeli tourists to visit Petra and Wadi Rum and return to Israel to stay in its hotels. said the writer. He said that Israel's repressive measures against the Palestinians and the delay in implementation of the Oslo agreement have been causing so much frosparation to the Jordanian

Ties that bind cypriots become Source of discord By Michael Jansen accused Greek Cypri

NICOSIA - Twenty years of de facto political partition has not produced a complete physical division of Cyprus. Indeed, the island is more than ever un-ited by the infrastructure electricity cables and water pipes — laid down during the last years of British colonial rule and the first years of the republic.

But this physical unity has led to dissent. The latest political crisis between the Turkish Cypriot north and the Greek Cypriot south has been over electricity. With electricity cuts of 12-14 hours a day, northern Nicosia and the towns and villages of the Turkish Cypriot area have been "Beirutised" by the introduction of noisy generators in homes and shops, etting up a cacaphony in the streets whenever cuts occur. A desperate Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktash, has even threatened to bomb southern power stations unless they supply more electricity to the

After the Turkish army invaded and divided the island in 1974, the Greek Cypriots agreed to go on supplying the Turkish Cyp-riot area with electricity, free of charge, in exchange for water from the Turkishoccupied Morphou area. Once the Greek Cypriots developed the water resources of their area, there was no trade-off. Then the north, which did not develop its own sources, became a net importer of water from the south. This did not mean the north was dependent on the south, however, because both sides of the divided capital continued to receive water from Turkish-held Morphou. But this water was too saline for consumption and had to be mixed with sweet water from the Troodos mountains pro-vided by the Greek Cypriots, creating interdependcace in supply as well as shared pipelines....

developed several years ago ecause of rising demand on both sides of the dividing Green Line, Turkish Cypriot delay in developing Greek Cypriot postponement of construction of a new power plant. But the situation became acute only last September, after an explosion wrecked a Turkish Cypriot plant before it be-

Last week, Mr. Denktash

accused Greek Cypriot "saboteurs" of tampering with parts for the new plant while "in transit". However, a U.N. technical expert said the explosion had been caused by faulty welding during construction. This has forced the Turkish Cypriots to rely on power from two back-up gas turbine generators, which are unsuited to extended use and cost \$60,000 a day to run, and on surplus from the Greek Cypriots. "Until 1993 there was generally a surplus," stated the U.N. expert, "but last year demand exceeded supply and the Greek Cypriot electricity authority gave priority to paying rather than nonpaying consumers. Unbilled consumption from 1974 through 1994 has reached Cyprus pounds 147 million (about \$300 million)", of which the Turkish Cypriot consumer paid "only a fraction" to their non-paying authorities. On Jan. I

ing it less competitive. The electricity crisis has come at a very bad moment for the Turkish Cypriot economy. In her new Year's Message, the Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller told Turkish Cypriots that they would have to stand on their own feet economically although they could expect continuing development aid. This tough talk came in response to criticism in the Turkish Cypnot press of Mrs. Cilier's government, which was accused of withholding an estimated \$200 million in budgetary sup-

however, prices in the north were raised to a higher level

than in the south. This will

harm both the individual

consumer, who has a lower

standard of living than that in the south, and industry,

forcing prices up and mak-

Mainland Turkey has apparently taken the attitude that the Turkish Cypriots will, from now on, have to share in the economic fortunes, and misfortunes, of the motherland, recently, plagued by record high inflation of 149.6 per cent and a 61 per cent depreciation in the value of the Turkish lira.

This level of inflation has been imported into the of northern Cyprus where its impact has had a far greater impact than in the much larger mainland economy. Imported inflation has also combined with an accumulation of adverse local factors to produce inflation of 200-225 per cent.

LETTERS

Vital service not appreciated

AS THE Director of the AMIDEAST office in Jordan, I was happy to read Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh's article (Jordan Times, Jan. 5-6) on "Cultural orientation and study abroad," as he is tacking a subject of concern to us.

As you may be aware, AMIDEAST is the place that all Jordanian students, interested in a U.S. education, must visit to take the required tests, certify documents and receive information on U.S. higher education. In addition to our advising services that focus on how to get an admission to a U.S. university, AMIDEAST offers regularly scheduled group sessions on cultural, social and academic life in the U.S. Each year thousands of students visit our office to attend group advising sessions, use the library and other services, yet, the session on "Pre-Departure Orientation" is the least attended. Three weeks ago we offered a Pre-Departure Orientation for those who will begin their studies in the spring of 1995. After announcing it for weeks, through our office and the U.S. embassy (when students were issued their visas), only two people attended. Our experience is that unless students are required to attend such a session they won't! Those of us in the field of international education know the importance of being prepared for a new cultural experience. Information available at such sessions is the most valuable and beneficial for anyone who is about to embark on a new life experience, but most students are unconvinced of the need. Few seem to want to know the realities of that experience.

Since this is an obvious concern of Dr. Majdoubeh's, as it is ours, I would be interested in hearing any suggestions from others on how to encourage students to be more prepared. AMIDEAST would also be willing to cooperate with any other organisation, educational institution etc. to offer these services to the public.

> Janine R. El Tal, Country Director, AMIDEAST/Jordan, Amman.

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The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its unders on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



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JANUARY 14, 1998

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157 Jordan. in recent weeks depicted the peace plan as a starting point for further negotiations, instead of the "take-it-or-leave-Leners from the Vames it" deal it started out as. This has dismayed the Bosman government which says it will not let the big powers retreat from the plan to

Jordan, Israel (Continued from page 1)

said. "Therefore His Majesty the King and I have agreed to let the people concerned daily with the problem by the 25th of this month to reach agreement, to try to accelerate the timetable of tourism, of problem of trade and commerce by which Jordan will be able to export commodities and products to Israel and other issues that will make the peace treaty the kind of a peace treaty that the man in the street will feel"

Israeli Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur was quoted as saying that "the Jordanian people would like to see the concrete results of peace and Rabin took decisions in this direction."

"It is unfortunately undeniable that there is hostility towards Israel among the Jordanian people," Mr. Gur was quoted as saying by the

pected to be held after the King's talks with Mr. Rabin did not materialise. There was no explanation why it was called off. However, the King briefly answered reporters' questions as Mr. Rabin and the

delegation accompanying him were flying out. The outcome of the talks, he said, was that "we are determined to implement what we have agreed in the

peace treaty as rapidly as When the Washington De-

claration was signed on June 25, leading to an accelerated peace treaty," Mr. Rabin pace in negotiations that led to the Oct. 26 treaty, "we both agreed to be the shepherds of the process," said the King.

The King emphasised that Thursday's meeting was very important since it underlined the approach that "beyond what the world would hopefully contribute, we would like to do whatever we can between us directly."

The King brushed aside a suggestion that Jordanians were disappointed with what they saw as the slow pace of dividends reaching them. "I don't think that is a fact

at all," said the King. "The peace treaty does not mean overnight changes. I have told my people it would take time and efforts."

In the meantime, the King noted, there have been major changes in the Jordanian-Israeli equation. "There is a human face to the other side... we have an international border... (and) the problem of water has been resolved," he said.

It was Mr. Rabin's fourth visit to Jordan and first after peace treaty was signed. He was accompanied by Chief of Staff Ehud Barak, Military Intelligence Chief Uri Saguy, Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin and deputy head of Mossad Evraham Haleevy, whose name has been mentioned as a possible nominee as Israel's ambassador to Jordan.

Mubarak to visit Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

Jordan wanted the final resolution to take note of its role as guardian of the Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem. The PLO, supported by some of the influential Arab countries, rejected the Jordanian language and included a reference to Sandi Arabia.

The summit adopted a resolution which stressed that Jerusalem was an integral part of Palestinian territories occupied by Israel in 1967 and declared it capital of a

future Palestinian state. Jordan said it had no problems with the resolution but had objections to specific reference to Saudi-Arabia with out any reference to Jordan 31

During Thursday's talks in Cairo, Jordan and Egypt agreed to revitalise the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee chaired by the remiers of the two coun-

The two sides also resolved problems related to the acceptance of Jordanian students at Egyptian universi-ties, Mr. Kabariti said. The minister said that his

government's policy was focused on the need to normalise Arab relations as "a strategic and not as a temporary, transitional option.

Following the talks in Cairo, Mr. Musa was quoted as saying that "Jordanian-Egyptian interests in the region are identical.".

Jordan hails Mideast

Russians in'final assault

(Continued from page 1)

permanent secretariat for its monitoring committee in Amman. This secretariat will forge macro-economic policies including trade, investment, finance, foreign ex-change and others. Without such harmonisation, among the regional parties, in terms of these policies, the Bank's scope of work will be constrained. Thus the two institutions will complement each other in creating a new

cooperation and develop-

ment era in the Middle East.

(Continued from page 1)

the Russian President on Fri-

The agency said Mr. Yelt-sin had told Mr. Kohl — who

is one of Moscow's staunch-

est Western allies — what he

is doing to try to end the

conflict but gave no other

The Council of Europe,

meeting in Strasbourg, de-manded an end to the Rus-

sian military action and said it

would delay examination of

Moscow's application for

membership of the group of

would remain open for Mos-

(Continued from page 12)

negotiations on a political

The peace envoys from

Russia, the United States,

Britain, Germany and France

briefed Bosnian government leaders on Thursday on the

The envoys, who were due

to hold more talks in

Sarajevo later on Friday, de-

med persistent reports that

the plan was now watered

Contact group envoys have

The state of the s

down to suit the Serbs.

settlement to the war.

peace plan.

Contact group presses Serbs

details.

day seeking information.

"Participation in the bank will not be limited to the countries which will enter into it in the initial stage. The door will be kept open for other regional and international parties to participate in

the future. "Jordan is satisfied with this outcome of the meeting. We are also satisfied that this idea, which we helped in initiating, studying and defending, is expected to see the light in the forthcoming Amman Economic Conference, due to convene in the period Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 1995.

The U.N. described Bosnia

as relatively quiet in the past

24 hours aside from clashes in

the northwestern Bihac en-

clave and near the eastern

"Sporadic small arms fire,

heavy machinegun bursts and

occasional shelling continued

in the Bihac pocket," spokes-

man Major Herve Gourme-

Maj. Gourmelon said a 45-

minute firefight between

separatist Serbs and Bosnian

government army units inside

the Srebrenica pocket occur-

red after Serb forces had

stealthily encroached on the

U.N.-protected enclave in

Sporadic artillery and small

arms duels ensued later in the

day. U.N. observers counted

the previous four days.

lon told a news briefing.

enclave of Srebrenica.

attackers. The second is the identity of one of the men who tried to kill him early on Saturday morning. Leaning up from the cot on the filthy floor of the hospital in Nyamasheke and holding the bandage that covered the exit wound on the back of his head, Mr. Mazimpaka whispered a

man's name. "He was an Interahamwe" he said, referring to the dreaded militias that killed hundreds of thousands of people in Rwanda. "I am sure of it."

THERE ARE only two

things that Vianney Mazim-

paka remembers about the

milliseconds after a bullet

tore through his neck and

just before he was swal-

lowed by unconsciousness.

The first is falling off the

roof of his house where he

was trying to hide from his

If Mr. Mazimpaka's memory and the reports by United Nations military observers are correct, then it appears that Rwanda's killers have started a campaign to stage a comeback just five months after their defeat by the rebels of the Rwandese Patriotic Front

process towards the peace

extremist government have regrouped and embarked on a looting and killing spree that appears aimed at destabilising the country's new government. The sources said that elements of the former government have over the last week staged successful

According to U.N. milit-

ary sources the forces of

Rwanda's defeated Hutu

A HUMAN WASTELAND: Over half a million people are believed to have died in Rwanda

commando-style raids on villages bordering the shores of Lake Kivu in western Rwanda, as well as in towns in the south-east. The latter are within easy striking distance of refugee camps in Tanzania, which are well-known strongholds of the former government.

The target of the latest attack has been the village of Nyamasheke, which sits on the tip of a peninsula jutting into Lake Kivu. suffered at least six well coordinated attacks in 36-

hour period. The last attack took place against Mubumbano, a small rural community near Nyamasheke. The killers selected three houses and attacked them with rifles and machetés.

Not even infants were

jured by macheté blows to the head, but survived. One child, his mother, father and a middle-aged woman were not so lucky.

spared, two babies were in-

Death squads sow new terror in Rwanda

Defeated Hutu extremists have regrouped,

Robert Block reports from Nyamasheke

Later, the neighbours and friends of those killed in the raid stood around the four mounds of dirt - three of them large enough for adults, and one perceptibly smaller, that marked the graves of the victims.

They were frightened and angry. "The bandits shot these people and then cut them with machetés. We are frightened, and we need protection," said one oman in the crowd.

Combined rifles and macheté attacks are the hail mark of the Interahamwe militias, responsible for the massacres in Rwanda last April in which as many as led. U.N. sources and local residents say that the attackers operate in teams that infiltrate Rwanda by boat from Ijwi, an island on the Zairean side of the lake. "The bandits come from over there," said Baltizar Seminega, a teenage boy, pointing at a valley in the island, which is visible from here by boat and they steal from us and kill us." U.N. officials said that

Nyamasheke. "They come

although the raids seemed to be aimed at rustling cattle and looting, they believe the attacks represent the beginning of a low-level insurgency campaign in the form of hit and run operations. "It is clear that the attackers have good intelligence and choose their target carefully. Many of the attacks showed a great deal of precision, said one military source. "If the aim of the former government is to try to create instability in

Rwanda then it is succeed-

ing," he added.

For months now there have been reports that former members of Rwanda's extremist government army have been training in preparation for a guerrilla war paign to avenge their defeat. Government officials in south-western Rwanda acknowledged that RPF soldiers have engaged troops of the former regime who were trying to infiltrate Rwanda from Ijwi, but dismiss the significance of the raids. "They represent no threat at all," said

governor of Cyangugu province, which encomp The reorganisation, and Nyamasheke. "That (former government) army

come back here is nothing more than a wish that they have no means to make come true." In an internal report written in October the U.N. said that the former government forces were undergoing a reorganisation process and were expected to mount small-scale insurgenry operations in the near

Theobald Rutihunza, the

across the border (in Zaire)

is disorganised and undisci-

plined. Their threat to

months. The report added: "The risk of such operations increases as time progresses. The size and effectiveness of future RGF (Rwanda Government Force) operations will depend on the level of outside assistance available to them."

future, probably within six

But the south-west has not been the only area to suffer raids. At least 10 people died recently in attacks on a village near the south eastern town of Kibungo. The attackers reportedly infiltrated from Rwandan refugee camps in Tanzania.

the pubic desire by Rwanda's former leaders to retake their country by force. led one French relief agency, Medécins Sans Frontiers (MSF), to pull out of the Rwanda refugee camps last month. At the time MSF said it was "unacceptable that the international community allows humanitarian aid to so openly strengthen and legitimise the power of leaders of a regime which organised and perpetrated a genocide."

According to a leaked document obtained by the Independent, the U.N. force commander in Rwanda, Major-General Guy Tousignant, said that De-cember and January would be decisive months for the ment quotes the general as saying that if the former regime failed to live up to its promises to launch a counter attack against Rwanda around Christmas, the morale of its forces would suffer possibly an irreversible blow.

The Independent

Jordanian land not leased Jordan that Jordanian-Gulf

(Continued from page 1)

treaty with Israel, Prince In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Hassan referred to the Oslo agreement and the other de-Christopher described the velopments leading to the conflict in a television intersigning of the treaty. "We all view as a setback for demobelieve in the language of a cracy in Russia. comprehensive solution and But we shouldn't be misits content as a complement led into feeling that it's all over," he added. "It's not the to the idea of stability instead of war in the Middle East." end of that process and we he said, adding that there was need to get back on that no mathematical concept that

The secretary of Russia's negotiations will ripen simulsecurity council, an inner cirtaneously. cle of leaders headed by Mr. Noting that issues in the Yeltsin, responded by saying negotiations were compli-Moscow had had no choice cated and thorny, he said it but to use force in Chechenya was difficult to follow up to prevent the Russian Fedwhat was going on on other eration breaking up. The detracks because of the lack of cision had been painful, he coordination among the Arab

parties to the peace talks. He expressed hope that there would be a minimum level of Arab coordination which he said might develop into an aspect of joint Arab action in the future.

Prince Hassan said Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation was continuing at the regional and international levels, denying press reports that there were a kind of competition between the two countries. "In view of Jordan's size, population and economy, I do not view these reports about competition as accurate," he said.

He noted that the two countries had identical views on new political concepts such as Middle Eastern cooperation and coordination in social and economic issues.

Replying to a question on whether the channels betrade, (then Rima Khalaf), and generate a conviction in

visited Damascus two weeks

The daily and procedural relations are continuing but we are not familiar with the issue of the Syrian-American dialogue or the Syrian-Israeli dialogue and did not ask to be familiarised with them. There is a basis of confidence between the two countries' leaderships and we still hope to have a comprehensive the Syrian and Jordanian framework of a political settlement," he said.

Replying to another question on Jordanian-Saudi relations, Prince Hassan said last Ramadan he thanked, on behalf of His Majesty King Hussein, King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz and Prince Salman Ben Abdul Aziz for making a donation to Jerusalem. "We think that with теgards to Jerusalem, competition over good doing is legitimate and desired; we hope that the Palestinian citizen will get more support

controversy. He said that he had the chance to meet with Prince Salman and Prince Bandar Ben Sultan in New York, explaining that the desired meeting at the level of leaderships had not materialised

and this is not an issue of

Prince Hassan underlined the importance of integration between Jordan and Saudi Arabia and Jordan and other Arab Gulf countries.

"The conviction is still that we constitute a barrier in the face of an Israeli domination of the Arab economies in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf tween Jordan and Syria were region and the continuous open, he said the Jordanian threat that economic dispariminister of industry and ties create more malfunctions

and Jordanian-Saudi integration was the most aspect of Arab economic stability in the coming stage. Any Jordanian weakness will mean that this barrier and this belt will be side-stepped by Israel with its economic weight and Jordan would lose its ability to carry out a central role in the benefit of Arab stability in the coming years," he said.

He said the absence of consultations among Arab countries and having these countries judge their inter-relations through the perspectives of other parties in the world widened the gap between Arab countries and deprived them of the chance to build mutual confidence required at this difficult stage in Arab history.

In reference to the meeting of the Jerusalem Committee in Morocco, he said: "I would like to explain that Jerusalem consists of three circles, inside the walled city and those outside considered by Israel as greater Jerusalem and which Israel wants to expand to include areas from Bethlehem to Ramallah." He said the Christian

World was preparing to hold celebrations marking the year 2000 and international Jews were preparing for a celebra-tion in 1996 to mark 3000 years since the establishment of Jerusalem, But the Islamic World was preparing nothing about the Mushim rights inside the walls of the city, he said. It is unfortunate that talk about Jerusalem be only political since any vacuum that might emerge would leave the issue of Jerusalem for the Israeli religious affairs ministry, he said.

"When we talk politically, we support the Palestinians within the second and third circles in Jerusalem and we had no dispute with the PLO

over the fact that Jerusalem is part of the lands occupied in 1967 and that Jerusalem is not only an issue of worship and religious representation, but an issue of a people also," he said. "We do not talk about Palestinising, Jordanising, Saudising the issue of Jerusalem because the issue is not one of the media but an issue of having the Islamic view understood because there are equal rights concerning worship in Jerusalem."

He said Jordan had been and still is supporting having Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian state and Palestinian rights without any reservations or limits.

In reply to a question on whether Israel might seek to confuse the Palestinian Authority to accuse it of inability to rule and to push towards having Jordan take responsibility over the West Bank, Prince Hassan said he viewed it the other way since "the focus is now on the Jordanian identity, specially after the recent census and the call for citizens that the severance of ties exists only west of the river while east of the river we talk about one people and we hold tight to national uni-

"The biggest fear for us with regard to the occupied land is not the struggle betwen the national, pan-Arab or religious trends, but is the generation that for more than a quarter of a century grew up under Israeli occupation, having the villages and cities there separated by settlements and the separation between Jerusalem and the West Bank and between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This separation might lead to closer ties with Jordan ... but might also lead to closer Palestinian-Israeli ties

as was the case with the

Arabs of 1948." The Crown Prince reviewed the situation of Iraq and warned against Arabs following the policy of "donble containment" of Iran and Iraq. He said such a policy could lead to fuelling extremism in the region.

Prince Hassan said he respects Islamic fundamentalism in its historical sense, but warned of radicalism in its various forms. "I stress that going back to Islam for reasons related to political deprivation or deprivation of civil and social rights can be understood. When we talk about 130 million Arabs whose income will be less than the income of seven years, the bet is that there will be more extremism." Noting that Jordan man-

million Israelis within 10

aged to contain the Islamic trend within the constitutional and parliamentary context as well as the framework of the National Charter, he said Jordan was always hoping for finding solutions to the problems of extremism at the Arab and Islamic levels.

He said the idea of establishing a Middle East cooperation bank did not rise out of a vacuum but was the expression of a regional concept adding that the available mechanisms do not necessarily serve the aspired goals.

Settlers launch 'war for land'

(Continued from page 1) killed.

The army stopped them, detaining 14 Israelis for a few

Palestinians demonstrate daily and an anti-settlement day has been declared for Tuesday with protests at three flashpoints on the West Bank - Hebron, Al Bireh and the village of Kafr Addik. Settler leaders have also

promised there will be "more surprises" for the government in the coming days. Several dozen Palestinian bedouins demonstrated Friday against plans to move

them off their land to allow a Jewish settlement to expand. The Jehalin tribe were expelled by Israel from their ancestral lands in the desert in 1952 and re-settled a few

kilometres from Jerusalem. "Down with occupation, down with colonisation," about 50 protestors chanted along the main Jerusalem to Jericho road. The settlement of Maale

Adumim, the biggest on the West Bank with a population of 20,000, has plans to grow to 50,000 over the next decade and wants to take over the beduin camp.

The Jehalin have rejected a move to land near the rubbish dump for the Palestinian village of Abu Dis and spurned offers of financial aid as inadequate. The government froze new

settlement building after winning the 1992 elections but allowed the completion of 11,000 units already underway and encouraged construction on the West Bank around Jerusalem. Haaretz revealed Friday

that 700 families have recently moved into homes on the West Bank which the government had formally forbidden them to occupy. The question of settle-

ments is not due to be negotiated between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) until the start of the third year of autonomy

90 artillery explosions and more than 1,000 rounds of appease the military domi-

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Mexican fears unwarranted in Asia, economists say

of a Mexican-style capital outflow were still rocking Asia Friday, despite economists' advice that the womies are unfounded.

Foreign investors were asking whether Mexico's currency devaluation and capital outflow crisis could happen in

But analysts and economists say Asian economies bear little resemblance to Mexico's economic circumstances that led to its currency devaluation, and investors have overreacted by moving capital out of the region.

"Anybody who compares Mexico with Hong Kong, Thailand and Indonesia is basically not very well informed," said Andrew Freris, economist with Salomon Brothers in Hong Kong.

concern in the European

Commission." a member

Merrill Lynch — Dubai

Asian economies have high savings ratios, low currentaccount deficits relative to gross domestic product, in some cases budget surpluses. high debt-cover ratios and propserous growth outlooks, economists say.

Mr. Freris said currencies in the region such as the Hong Kong dollar, Thai baht, Philippines peso and Indonesian rupiah are wobbling in investor nervousness over fears they will be unpegged from the U.S. dollar.

The Hong Kong dollar is pegged to the U.S. dollar and other Asian economies maintain their currencies in tight bands relative to the U.S. currency. Investors fear speculators might decouple Asian countries from their tight ranges.

On Friday the Hong Kong

Monetary Authority propped up its currency by withdrawing funds from the interbank market and causing wholesale rates to spike up.

Trading in the Philippines peso was suspended temporarily when it touched the threshhold of a volatility band, and Thailand offered foreign banks one-week rates of 9.50 per cent to attract foreign capital.

"Everything that is linked to the U.S. dollar is suspect," said Mr. Freris. "People have every right to act and respond irrationally. People take very substantial losses on markets when they fall so they can't take the risk."

Enzio von Pfeil, economist with S.G. Warburg, said fundamentals in Asian economies were sound, but this would be hard to argue to foreign-based fund managers when there is so much uncertainty in the wake of the Mexico crisis.

"The level of ignorance is so high by the (U.S.) retail industry generally," said Mr. Von Pfeil. "They will tar all of Asia with the same brush they have tarred Mexico with," he said. "I think it's actually very much of an overreaction. There's nothing wrong with Asian fundamentals.

Manila brokers blamed a 5.6 per cent slump in stocks on Friday on worries about the Mexican capital outflow.

"Because of the Mexico crisis no foreign fund manager wants to go into emerging markets," said Noel Reyes of Dharmala Securities.

Friday's jitters followed Thursday's action by regional government officials to shore up their currencies and allay concern about their econo-

Indonesian officials Thursday said the government would not resort to devaluing the rupiah because the country's economic fundamentals were solid.

"Our situation is very different from that in Mexico. I do not see any impact in Indonesia. We remain with our prudent fiscal and monetary policy." Finance Minister Marie Mohammad told reporters.

Indonesia has estimated the country's foreign debt will hit \$100 billion by the end of the 1995/96 fiscal year starting next April.

In Thailand, officials saw no reason for a currency fall. Bandid Nijathawom, Bank of Thailand deputy director of economic research department said: "Thailand's economy is fundamentally sound, in a strong position."

Thailand expects gross domestic product growth of 8.5 per cent and inflation of five per cent. It has a debt service ratio of 10.9 per cent.

Economists were sanguine about the longer term outlook for the region, saying Asian economies have high savings ratios and do not suffer crippling debt burdens.

"People from East Asia have penchant for saving. It's cultural - no social security to rely on," said Bangkok bank chief economist Nimit Nontapunthawat.

leading energy buyer BELJING (AFP) - China.

grappling to meet energy demands that have surged along with its economic growth, is on the verge of signing a multi-billion-dollar contract for a second nuclear plant at Daya Bay, on Hong Kong's doorstep. The drive to reduce Chi-

na's estimated 20 per cent shortfall in electricity output has made it the world's leading purchaser of power plants, both large and small. nuclear, thermal or hydro, Western experts said.

China sits on the world's biggest-known coal reserves and ranks 10th in terms of oil reserves, but it has been quite unable to keep pace with the growing demand fuelled by double-digit growth.

Official figures show that annual consumption has risen by eight per cent since 1980 and will pass the 980 billion kilowatt/hour mark this year and reach 1,500 billion Kw/h by the turn of the century. French Industry and External Trade Minister Jose Rossi arrived in Beijing Friday, confident that he can clinch a contract worth up to \$2.45 billion for Daya Bay II on

sortium. The project involves French nuclear steamgenerator builder Framatome, the Franco-British turbine makers GEC-Alsthom. Alcatel-Alsthom and Electricite de France (EDF), whose president Gilles Menage has been in Beijing since last Sunday.

behalf of a French-led con-

The backdrop to the talks is a warning from the power ministry to factories that they face "inevitable" power cuts in the coming months, particularly in industrial regions, coastal areas and in the

south, where some growth rates have shot up by 20 per

cent. Increased coal production. which reached 1.16 billion tonnes last year, cannot make up the shortfall as coal-fired energy accounts for only a little over 60 per cent of the

total production Diesel produces less than 20 per cent, as does hydroelectric, while nuclear brings in a mere 1.5 per cent of the total, although officials hope to boost hydro-electric production to 25 per cent and nuclear to two per cent by

Prime Minister Li Peng has given the go-ahead for a massive project to build a hydroelectric plant in the Three Gorges along the Yangtze River in central China, despite environmental protests over the destruction of an area renowned for its beauty.

The completion of the proect, scheduled for 2009, will bring 18,000 megawatts on line, with annual production of 84 billion KW/h.

The levelling-off in the oil industry despite the discovery of new fields turned China admitted in December.

Production last year was 146 million tonnes, compared with 144 million tonnes in

both in industry and also in residential needs, the government has announced plans to annual rate of 15,000 MW up to 2000.

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into a net importer last year. the head of the China National Petroleum Corporation

To cope with the shortage increase production at an

But to do so China will need financial help from international organisations like the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime continues to be a time when you can perceive ways to leap forward to new and interesting concepts. Mid-day especially is the best time to make practical application of these ideas but the rest of your day works well too.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Showing more affection for allies brings good results during the daytime, but steer clear of arguments in the evening.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can get your environment improved considerably now and be more comfortable in the future. Be kind with fellow associates.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is a good day to get into recreations best enjoyed by your associates, but tonight stay at home with loved ones and save money.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Show your loved ones that you are willing to cooperate with them more and you get good results. Be calm, cool and poised.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is a fine day for telling your associates how much you like them. Be sure not to criticise. Thus you can improve relationships. VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Find some way of adding to

present income and also get your property affairs in better order. Try to cut down on expenses. LIBRA: (Septembea 23 to October 22) If you tackle some definite personal aims in a positive fashion and are ingenious, you can gain them in a very successful manner.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is a good day for ferreting out the truth in relationships with others, then use this knowledge wisely and very productively.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get busy at personal aims which are difficult to handle during work days, and use positive methods. Drive with care on the highway.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is a fine day to get outside affairs handled for which you have had little time of late. If you state your aims, you will gain support. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Very interesting ideas can be yours now if you are alert. One who thinks differently from you

can be of real assistance now. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Plan what should be done to

bring more happiness to your mate and then carry through with ideas. Show that you are dependable. Birthstone of January: Garnet - Rose Quartz

Southern Europe monetary crisis spurs moves to single currency

The currency crisis has shattered the EMS stability BRUSSELS (AFP) - The collapse of the Spanish peseta of which the EU has been so and the Italian fira highlights both the need for a single currency in the European Union (EU) and the problems inherent in achieving this goal, EU officials here

The plunge of the peseta almost to its floor level against the German mark within the European Monet-ary System (EMS) coupled with the weakness not just of the lira but also of the Portuguese escudo and the Swed-ish krona "are causing a lot of

The following report covering the period from Thursday Jan. 5, 1995 until Wednesday Jan. 11, 1995 is

provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group,

Currency Outlook

Overview

Fundamental View: We have revised higher our dollar-yen

forecast in light of further evidence that the dollar has

probably bottomed against the yen, at least for now.

However, we maintain our view that the dollar is on a

Our new forecast is for the dollar to strengthen to near

We also look for the dollar to strengthen against the mark,

JPY/USD 105 in three- and six-month's time before trending

and trade near DM/USD 1.60, 1.65 and 1.60 in three-six and

12-month's time, respectively, and have adjusted our European cross rates to reflect this. Though the dollar has been

somewhat weaker against the Deutsche mark in recent days,

that should change as market participants gear up for more

We still expect the Fed to raise rates at the Jan. 31-Feb. 1

aggravate the Mexico's problems — and again at or around

Japanese yen

Fundamental View: In the last few weeks we have seen

increased evidence that the dollar may have bottomed

against the yen. We have revised our short- and medium-

term forecasts to reflect this, but continue to expect a

near JPY/USD 105 in three- and six-month's time before trending lower in 12-months time to JPY/USD 95. There are

Our new forecast is for the dollar to strengthen to trade

longer-term trend of dollar weakness.

despite concerns that an increase will

longer-term trend of depreciation against the yen.

lower in 12-months time to JPY/USD 95.

proud since the last crisis of August 1993, when it was decided to broaden the margins within which EMS currencies may fluctuate against each other from 2.5 to 15 per

The return to stability had fuelled optimism aboutachieving a common European currency by the end of

the century.
The lira left the EMS in September 1992 and does not currently pose a threat to the delicate exchange mechanism between EU currencies. However its fluctuations, like

those of the peseta, are having a considerable negative impact on the ordinary dayto-day business of the European Union which since January 1993 has been a single market where goods circulate freely.

"The effects of the depreciation of the lira and peseta are enormous and Italian exports in particularly have increased exponentially," said Peter Praet, an economic adviser to the Generale de Banque in Brussels.

These devaluations which significantly boost the exports of some EU countries were the main problem envisaged by European officials

by 100 or more basis points.

Merrill Lynch revises forecasts for key currencies

a number of reasons for near-term dollar strength: Widening

interests rate differentials between the U.S. and Japan,

indications that the Japanese are again sending capital to

U.S. markets after a long hiatus, and further deceleration of U.S. capital outflows. At around 360 basis points, short-term

nominal interest rates spreads between the U.S. and Japan

are reaching compelling levels. With the Fed expected to

increase rates at least two more times in the next few months

and Japan unlikely to change rates, that spread could widen

Furthermore, with returns in the U.S. markets looking

more and more attractive to Japanese investors, we are

beginning to see a return of Japanese capital. At the same

time that capital inflows appear to be picking up. capital

outflows - mostly in the form of international mutual funds

to offer more value and investors are discovering how risky

some of those investments are. Lastly, compared to his

predecessor, the new U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin

seems more adept at assuring the markets that Washington

In the longer run, though, the huge capital imbalance between the U.S. and Japan's current accounts will continue

to weigh on the dollar, exposing it to volatility whenever

capital inflows or outflows change significantly. In particular,

Japanese investors suffered huge losses in U.S. markets in

dollar, this will continue to be an important wild card.

Deutsche mark

Fundamental View: A "flight to quality" appears to be

boosting the Deutschemark as political concerns (Spain and

Italy), fiscal concerns (Sweden) and the Mexican crisis have

led to a significant rise in the value of the mark against the

dollar and an even larger appreciation against European crosses. Thin holiday trading in the week between Christmas

and New Year and the plunge in the value of the Mexican peso began a process of mark appreciation that has yet to level off. On Dec. 26, the mark was trading at DM-USD 1.58

l are likely to be cautious in their return. For th

appear to be slowing now that U.S. markets are beginning

when the margins of fluctuation were widened.

"It seems absurd to say so but the decline of the peseta and lira proves the importance of having a single cur-rency because there can be no single market without a single currency," Mr. Praet

"These monetary tensions show that there are only two possible systems — floating exchange rates or a single currency - and not a system which is in between." he said.

The problem, say EU officials, is that neither Italy nor Spain is economically ready to move towards a common currency. They do not fulfill

criteria laid down in the Maastricht Treaty on closer European unity, notably with regard to budget deficits. debts, inflation and currency stability.

Even though political tur-moil is largely to blame for the collapse of the lira and the peseta, the economic performances of Italy and Spain are well below those of their EU partners. EÚ experts disagree on

what course to take. Some believe speedy adoption of a single currency by a "hard core" of the most prosperous EU states would make things worse for countries with the weakest currencies.

Adversely, others say a strong ECU (European Currency Unit) would encourage other countries to bring their economies up to standard so as to join in.

"If some states go ahead and adopt the single currency first, that will stimulate others to improve their economic policies," said Italy's European Internal Market Commissioner Mario Monti, a renowned economist.

The so-called "hard-core" as it is now envisaged would be based on the German mark, the Dutch guilder, the Belgian-Luxembourg franc, the Austrian schilling and the French franc.

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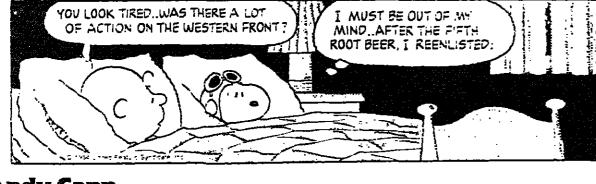
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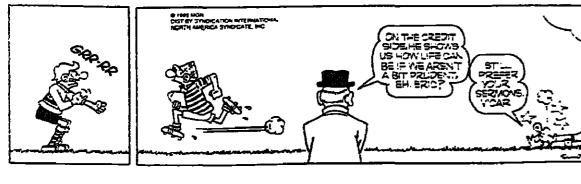
Fed tightening.

FOMC meeting -

the March 28 meeting.



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff











compared to DM/USD 1.54 today. Some have suggested that recent mark appreciation is due to expectations that the Bundesbank will raise rates sooner than expected.

We do not believe this is the case and point to falling Euro/DM futures - where expectations for short-rates have been revised down in recent weeks - as evidence that the market does not believe this either. We expect the Bundesbank to wait until the second half of this year before lifting the Lombard or the discount rate, though the repo rate is likely to drift higher in the first half. The dollar should make up some ground if, as we expect, the Fed increases rates again at the Jan. 31-Feb. 1 FOMC meeting. Our three-, six-and 12-month forecast is DM/USD 1.60, 1.65, 1.60, respec-

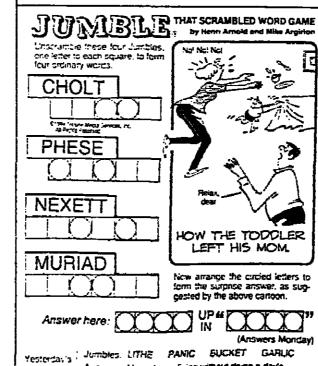
Pound sterling

Fundamental View: The British pound was steady against the dollar in the last week as pound weakness against the mark was matched by dollar weakness against the mark. Currently, the pound is trading at USD/GBP 1.563 and DM/GBP 2.40 compared to USD/GBP 1.561 and DM/GBP 2.43 in the prior week. Like some of the other European crosses, political concerns may be influencing the value of the mark. Today's debate in the House of Commons on membership of key committees could lead to a government defeat, weakening Prime Minister John Major's carry out his legislative agenda.

We think John Major will squeak by, but expect the government to remain under pressure throughout 1995 - a source of volatility for the pound. With more interest rate increases on the horizon — probably March — we expect the pound to rebound against the mark and trade near our three-month forecast of DM/GBP 2.45 and to appreciate further to our 12- month forecast of DM/GBP 2.50. In line with our forecast for stronger dollar appreciation against the mark, we expect the pound to slip to USD/GBP 1.53 in the next three months before recovering to USD/GBP 1.56 in 12-month's time.



"He's not flirting with you! He had a fast-food milkshake at lunch and his mouth hasn't returned to normal yet!"



Arswer. He makes a fiving without doing a day's work — A NIGHT CLERK

THE Daily Crossword by Avery P. Bromfield 14 Fromersman Boons Boons 15 Los Angeles school letters 16 Vessel 17 Wilty, sort of 18 Comfort 20 Merodies 21 Fishing leader 22 And not 23 Wigwam Inn 25 Spend Irms amilessily residents
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Jordanian drug companies

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pertise in the future with a

view for joint cooperation. A

said Thursday that Africa-

Israel Investment has signed

an agreement to establish an

Israeli-Jordanian company

for the energy, aviation, tour-

ism, real estate and agricul-

* An Italian commercial and industrial delegation will visit the Kingdom on Jan. 23, 1995. The delegation, which

groups 35 top businessmen and industrialists, will hold

talks with key officials in

various economic areas. Af-ter Jordan, the delegation will travel to the Palestinian

self-rule territories (Al Dus-

** According to accurate figures and statistics, the

level of poverty in 1994

reached 18 per cent, of which

five per cent was absolute

poverty. A family with a JD

120 monthly income and liv-

in a rented home is consi-

deted below poverty line while the family which does

not have to pay rent is consi-

* Jordanian investors are

currently in the process of

setting up the "International

Company for Medical Invest-

ments" with a JD 8 million

capital to be used for building a centre for treatment of CNS furnours by Gamma knife. According to Isam Hawam-

deh, head of the founding

committee, the centre will be

the first in the Middle East

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ANUARY II, 1995

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dered below the poverty line at JD 96 monthly income (Al মর্ম Statistics show that the highest demand by travellers on Royal Jordanian planes and at the duty free market at Oueen Alia Airport was for cigarettes, cigars, cosmetics, perfumes and souvenirs (Al Aswaq).

> million (Ai Aswaq). ™ Preparations are under way at the Ministry of Supply and the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure that enough at and vegetables as well as canned foodstuff are available at reasonable prices in the market during the holy month of Ramadan (Al

Aswaq).

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Romanian lambs are not affected and it is still permitted to import them (Al Ra'i). 16.650 16.650 1 1.030 7.150 7.150 7.150 6.970 0.930 1.490 1.430 4.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 4.300 4.300 4.300 4.300 4.300 4.300 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9.200 9. 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BRITOSAL CREATERS INDUSTRIES BRITOSAL CREATERS INDUSTRIES BRITOSAL CREATERS INDUSTRIES BRITOSAL CREATERS CO. BRITOSAL 1.000 0.740 0.500 1.500 ★☆ Natural Resources Au-0.949 0.800 0.500 1.350 2.440 1.199 1.200 1.820 1.384 2.210 thority (NRA) Director-General Fakhreddin Al Daghestani said Friday that press reports about reaching an agreement in the field of energy between Jordan and Israel were not accurate as the two parties were still discussing ways and means to exchange information and ex-

MARKETS	iro Amm		ek -	
Estécurrency Interact	Entee		Date: 12	/1/1995
Corrency	1 MTH	9 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTI
U.S. Poller	5.50	6.00	6.50	7.06
Sterling Found	5.75	6.18	6.68	7.25
Deutsche Mark	4.68	4.87	5.06	5.56
Swiss Franc	8.43	8.75	4.00	4.37
French Franc	5.37	5.15	6,25	6.15
Japanese Yen	2.12	2.25	2.31	2.50
Ruropean Currency Uni	t 5.81	6.06	6.40	7.00

Cantral Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Balletin

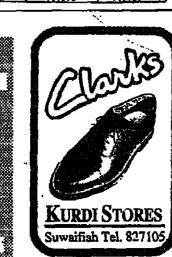
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Other Currentles	Wate : 18/1/1995			
Currency	BIG	Offer		
Bahraini Dinar	1.8390	1.8510		
Lebanese Litra*	0.041775	0.042885		
Saudi Riyal	0.1858	0.1872		
Kuwsiti Dinar	2,3100	2,3600		
Quiari Riyai	6.1900	6.1928		
Pgyptian Found	0.2000	0.2140		
Omeni Riyal	1.8040	1,1160		
UAE Dicham	0.1880	0.1908		
Greek Drackman	0:2615	0.3150		
Cypriot Presid	1,4075	1.5125		



They also said that they expected a good part of the cial banks and financial infresh stock issued by existing stitutions with JD 3.1 milcompanies which increased lion, or 34.8 per cent, the their capital last year and services sector with JD 2 milthose floated by new entities lion, or 22.5 per cent, and **Asia and Middle East** replace eastern Europe for Vietnam workers HANOl (AFP) - Asia and According to the union the Middle East are replacjournal Lao Dong, some ing eastern Europe as the 10,000 Vietnamese were main destinations for Vietworking overseas last year. namese workers, a report But that figure is low, as it from the labour ministry said doesn't count the Vietnamese Wednesday. in the former communist Most Vietnamese workers states of eastern Europe, departing for foreign workwhich had been their tradiplaces in 1994 went to Japan, tional foreign workplace. Malaysia, South Korea, Lebanon and Libya, primari-After the fall of the Berlin Wall, many thousands of ly to work in the textile, Vietnamese remained to electronics and construction work illegally, according to industries, according to the Vietnamese sources. report carried by local news-Overseas workers provide In Kuwait, Qatar and Yehundreds of millions of dolmen, rapidly developing publars in hard currency for Viet-

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES LONDON (R) - Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs 1.4184/94 1.5282/92 1.7140/50 1.2822/32 31.53/57 1620.8/1.8 98.33/43 7.4725/25 6.6950/00 One sterling

lic health sectors are attract-

ing Vietnamese doctors and

nurses, the report said.

6.0283/33 \$1,5716/26 One ounce of gold \$379.95/380.35

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nam, where chronic unem-

ployment hovers at 20 per

despite higher turnover at AFM to enter the market in earnest insurance stock with in the new year, contributing JD 100,000. or 1.1 per cent.

The sectoral indices closed

with varying changes: The

services sector 2.2 points or

1.6 per cent lower, the insur-

ance sector one point, or 0.7

per cent lower and the indust-

rial sector 0.7 points, or 0.5

per cent lower, while the

commercial banks and finan-

cial institutions index closed

0.4 points, or 0.3 per cent

Shares of 87 companies

were traded during the week;

when trading closed on Wednesday, 26 of them showed gains, 54 showed de-

clines and seven showed no

Brokers said investors had

trading floor. The weekly report of the AFM said trading volume during last week was JD 8.9 million, up 97.8 per cent from the previous week's JD 4.5 million.

to a new momentum on the

Share prices decline slightly

By a Jordan Tim. ; staff

reporter

AMMAN - Turnover at the

Amman Financial Market

(AFM) shot up last week, but

prices registered a slight de-

cline as investors switched

holdings based on already

announced year-end figures

of some companies and ex-

pected announcements from

others, brokers said Friday.

They said optimism

sparked by the change in

government that there would be increased coordination

among the various financial

authorities of the country was

riding high in the market.

They expected turnover to

continue to increase with

prices remaining largely

stable after taking into

account dividend announce-

The general share price index based on 60 major companies closed at 144.7 points. down three points, or 0.2 per cent, from the week's opening of 145 points, but still higher than the 143.6 points seen at the beginning of the

The report said 3.5 million shares changed hands during the week under 4,702 con-

The industrial sector accounted for JD 3.7 million. or 41.6 per cent, of the turnover, followed by commer-

picked up new optimism in the new year that the relative stagnation of the market during the year on the trading floor war destined to change as the new government moves to implement basic reforms in the various economic sectors. Another element behind

higher.

the optimism was also that the government would soon be launching infrastructure projects that were announced in 1994. Brokers noted that the trend in the Jordanian market was to look to the government for signs of economic activity rather than the private sector, although this trend is slowly changing. "It will take some time

before investors shift their traditional approach based on signals from the government and focus more on the actual performance of the private sector as the determining factor in the market,' said a broker, who cannot be identified by name under standing market regulations.

At the moment, "many are highly hopeful that the launching of government infrastructure projects would lead to increased economy activity in the private sector, and this sentiment accounts for a large part of the optimism in the market," added the brok-

The immediate market indication was a continued rise in turnover but prices might come down as investors adjust holdings in line with expected dividend announcement, according to most AFM brokers. However, some investors

were also apprehensive that the new finance minister, Basel Jardaneh, long known to be tough in implementing restrictive measures whenever needed, might move to squeeze commercial credit in the market as a means to keep inflation under control. If that happens, the brok-

ers said, it is highly likely that AFM share prices might suf-

UNCTAD official arrives ahead of seminar on GSP

By a Jordan Times staff reporter

AMMAN - A senior official of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) arrived in Jordan Friday on a several-day visit ahead of a workshop on the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) in trade and how Jordanian exporters could take better advantage of the preferential treatment that developed countries offer to imports from developing countries.

Stefano Inama, the UN-CTAD official, will hold talks. with government officials as well as Amman Chamber of Industry officials headed by the chamber's president. Khaldoun Abu Hassan, on preparations for the Jan. 22-24 workshop, said Ali Dajani, an adviser at the cham-

The main purpose of the workshop, expected to be addressed by American. Japanese, Canadian and other international experts on GSP as well as officials from UNCTAD, is to streamline the Kingdom's trade under the GSP system.

Also addressing the gathering will be a senior representative of the delegation of the European Commission. the executive arm of the European Union, and another representing the United States. Mr. Dajani said the gov-

ernment had already moved to ensure a well-coordinated approach to the issue by designating the Amman Chamber of Industry as the sole authority empowered to issue the necessary certificates that should accompany Jordanian goods exported under the GSP system.

"Until now there were several bodies which could issue the certificates and this had led to problems of noncoordination, with little accurate data available on Jordanian trade under the GSP system," said Mr. Dajani. Market sources said such a

state of affairs had led to misuse of the preferential treatment available to Jordan. They cited as an example certifications covering up. to four million shirts while the actual production capaci the country was around 250,000. The rest of the shirts came from outside sources and were certified as Jordanian after slight changes, perhaps in labelling, and exported under the GSP sys-

This led to some of the

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importing countries to tighten their conditions on imports from Jordan, and the Kingdom was deprived of opportunities to export its own products since the importers also-imposed certain

quota, the sources said. Mr. Dajani would not comment directly on who was responsible for such practices, but he expressed hope that this month's Amman seminar would clear the air and streamline the entire structure of Jordan's application of the GSP privileges.

According to UNCTAD, the seminar "is expected to enhance trade potentialities and to help diversify the base of the Mediterranean countries in the new trade environment created by the conclusion of the Uruguary Round (of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade - GATT) and the launching of new initiatives, such as the new European Union Mediterranean policy and the outcome of the Middle East/North Africa sum-mit" held in Casablanca, Morocco, late last year.

The Amman seminar is exnected to elaborate on the GSP schemes available to Jordanian exporters and the agreements reached between the Kingdom and the European Union on cooperation in trade.

A Jordanian-Italian roundtable of businessmen and officials is also scheduled to be held on Jan. 24, the last day of the seminar on GSP. It will be attended by about 35 Italian businessmen led by Giorgio Marini, president of the Rome-based Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Abu Hassan will chair the Jordanian delegation to the roundtable, which will "provide an opportunity... to discuss bilateral market access issues and possibilities of joint ventures," an UN-CTAD statement said.

The seminar is part of a series being organised in the Mediterranean region financed by the government of Italy, a member of the European Union. Italy has assumed a high-

profile approach to Jordan in terms of economic cooperation and trade relations in the wake of the launching of the Arab-Istaeli peace process ii 1991 and arranged a series of visits by Italian businessmen and experts to Jordan seeking to enhance ties and advise Jordanian businessmen on how to improve their production and marketing

MARKET JORDAN

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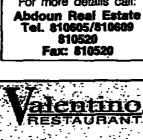
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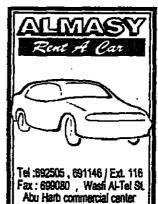
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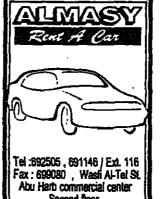
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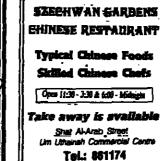
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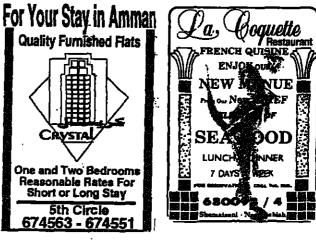








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Jordan women's basketball

JBF regroups national team after decade-long absence

By Aleen Bannayan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) put smiles back on a handful of faces when it announced Thursday that the women's national basketball team would be finally regrouped after decade-long absence.

Thirty-three players attended the meeting chaired by JBF President Awwad Haddad who had informal "chat with the players explaining the reasons for failing to regroup the team earlier and drawing out the plan for the

"The JBF has always faced the obstacle of funding national teams, as well as securing the courts for practice. However, this has taken too long and we are intent on overcoming these difficulties with the cooperation of the players, the JBF's women's basketball committee, the coaches and the clubs," Mr. Haddad told the gathering.

The JBF had last named a national team in Dec. 1992 and the players had a similar meeting in early 1993 to decide dates. However they were not contacted later and the matter remained unresolved.

Asked by the players if Thursday's meeting would be a repetition, Mr. Haddad said; "I do not blame past JBF boards for failing to regroup the teams as I know the obstacles. However, this board will try to make a differance. It is not acceptable for Jordanian basketball to have youth's and men's teams and not have a national women's team." he asserted.

Mr. Haddad told the players that the JBF had the Asian women's championship scheduled to take place in Japan in July on its agenda and hoped the team would be ready provided the JBF and its women committee manage to come up with sponsorship to cover the expenses.

'I am sure the Jordanian team would fare well in such a championship. I am aware of the players' capabilities and hope they will have a chance to represent the country," he

Youth had allocated a JD 12,000 budget for the JBF in 1995. However, total expenses for training and participating in the youth's, the women's and the men's Asian championships this year would amount to JD 60,000 at

Muna Janho, who heads the women's committee, said the JBF was determined to secure funds through the Friends of Basketball group who contribute JD 100 annually and by holding a charity march to help raise funds for financing the women team's participation in the Asian

Attending players represented Al Orthodoxi, Jazireh, Al Ahli, Homentmen and Abu Nusair clubs.
Al Orthodoxi are the reigning champions. They

regained the title from Al Jazireh in 1994 as Abu Nusair finished second, while titleholders Al Jazireh abruptly pulled out of the competition. Al Ahli had pulled out before the start while Homentmen did not compete for the second consecutive year.

Al Orthodoxi had only lost the title to Al Jazireh last year. Though missing the efforts of team captain Lara Masri Al Naber this season, Shireen Abu Khader is back on the team together with Jihan Abdul Noor, Carol Seikaly. Dima and Ghadah Qandah.

Al Jazireh also have a good lineup including Tala Al Mauge, Jumana Salti, Rana Husseini and Suhair Makusi. Women's basketball began its latest comeback in the 1989-90 season when three teams, Al Orthodoxi, Al Ahli, and Homentmen competed in the championship which was won by Al Orthodoxi.

In 1991, Al Jazireh joined the women's championship and finished fourth after the three aforementioned teams. In the 1992 competition, Al Jazireh clinched third place from Homentmen, and in 1993 defied expectations by clinching the title away from Al Orthodoxi who came in second. Al Ahli were third and Abu Nusair fourth.

insignificant event which is

usually completed in two

weeks, lacking attendance

The fact that a women's

national team has been ab-

sent for the past decade has

also had a negative impact

on women's basketball.

However, players are now

optimistic that the JBF is

serious about making some

changes on the women's

basketball arena after the

announcement Thursday of

regrouping the national team. (See separate story).

and interest from all.

Six schools compete in AAC tournament

in 1994.

By Aleen Bannayan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Realising that women's basketball players teams never get their fare share of competition, a group of school teams have come together and organised a tournament that will keep them busy for over two weeks.

The tournament begins Saturday at the sports complex of Amman Baccalaureate School (ABS). with six teams taking part: the Sisters of Nazareth School (SNS), the American Community School (ACS), the Rosary School, the National Orthodox School (NOS), the Christian Missionary School (CMS) and the ABS.

The participating teams are joined under the banner of the Amman Athletic Conference (AAC) and

seek to make the event an annual one.

Chief organiser Fadi Sabbah, who is head coach at the SNS, said that the AAC had been in contact with the Jordan Basketball Federation which will provide technical assistance in refereeing.

"We hope the event will take place every year dur-ing the winter break. Players are enthusiastic about the idea, and it will only be a step towards enhancing women's basketball which has long been treated with an offhand approach," Mr. Sabbah told the Jordan Times Friday. The six teams will play

the first round from the 14th to the 21st of January. The second round begins

The only other events organised in the country is the Jordan Basketball Federation's (JBF) women's championship and the Ministry of Education's annual schools competition which was won by the NOS

The JBF's competition has been organised on an annual basis since 1989. However, the number of competing teams fluctuates and is limited to four or five. The standard has been going downhill and there is no longer the usual competitive edge among the teams who sense it is an

Schedule of 1st round

ABS vs ACS NAZ vs CMS Sat. Jan. 14 Sun Jan. 15 ABS vs RC ACS vs NOS Mon. Jan. 16 ABS vs NAZ ACS vs CMS RC vs ACS Tne Jan. 17 ABS vs NOS Wed Jan. 18 RC vs CMS ACS vs NAZ Thurs. Jan. 19 NAZ VS. NOS RC vs NAZ. Fri Jan. 20 CMS vs. NOS Sat. Jan. 21 RC vs NOS ABS vs CMS

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Ramtha, Hussein upset; Wihdat still lead

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Ramtha, who entered the 20th week of the first division soccer championship only one point behind leaders Al Wihdat, were stunned after their surprising 1-0 defeat to Al Qadissieh Thursday. Mustafa Adam scored the

match's only goal in the 84th minute, after Al Ramtha's striker Mouffaq Abu Hedeib lost a penalty shot earlier in the match. The win was vital for Al

Qadissieh who are struggling

for their place in the division In Friday's matches, Al Arabi upset Al Hussein 3-2, Al Wihdat kept the lead after their 1-1 draw with Al Ahli, while Shabab Al Hussein beat Al Karmel 2-1. (See details and standings in Sun-

Inter deny Bergkam for sale

day's roundup).

MILAN (R) - Italian club Internazionale Milan warned England's Newcastle United that unhappy striker Dennis Bergkamp was not for sale.

"Bergkamp is not available," said Inter director Roberto Tavecchio in response to British press reported saying the Dutchman was Newcastle's prime target. after the sale of Andy Cole to Manchester United.

Bergkamp, who has said in the past he would like to play in England, returned to action on Wednesday when he played for 45 minutes in a friendly against fourth division Novara. Sidelined since October 30

with a groin injury. Berg-kamp could now win a recall for Sunday's home game with Sampdoria. Newcastle manager Kevin

Keegan is flush with cash after receiving a British record six milion pounds sterling (\$9.38 million) for Cole in a deal which stunned fans of the Premier League club.

Ahli overcome Arabi to retain Jordan handball title

By Roufan Nahhas Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Ahli retained the Kingdom's handball championship Thursday after beating Al Arabi 32/29 in overtime in the title-deciding match at the Sport Palace after a 27/27 tie. Dr. Sari Hamdan, president of the Jordan Handball Federation deputised for Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat to attend the match.

Al Ahli/Al Arabi 32/29: It was clear from the beginning the tension both teams experienced during the first half as they tried to build attacks but which ended unsuccessfully in spite of the pressure which Al Ahli's players Atef Abed Qader and Nabil Jamil put on Al Arabi's unorganised defence.

On the other hand, Al Arabi's performance looked weak and lacked focus as they tried to score from outside the penalty zone of Al Ahli depending on Muatasem Al Mansi and Ibrahim Al Buhairi but without any use, as most attacks were stopped by Al Ahli's defence. The first half ended 18/14 for Al

In the second half, Al Arabi regained confidence and looked more organised in building fatal attacks to take the lead in the 17th minute and continued the match on the same rhythm until Al Ahli's Mohammad Hamarshneh tied the game

The match had an overtime of ten minutes in which both teams tried to take advantage of every second but Al Ahli were more persistent to end the first half of the overtime 3/1 led by players Atef Abed Qader, Mohammad Taha and Hussein Ahmad.

Al Arabi's Hassan Bani Hani was sent out for using his foot to shoot the ball at the audience. In the second overtime

Al Arabi's Mohammad Abu Lail and Moatasem Al Mansi were sent out which gave Al Ahli the chance to score more and win the

saying.
"We don't have papers

done and there are still a

couple of points to iron out,

but if we get on a fast track

it's conceivable we could

The Rams, who play at a

stadium in Anaheim, south of

Los Angeles, have fought a

losing battle for fans against

The Rams went 4-12 in

a streak of seven consecu-

l'imes reported.

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southern California's other

have an announcement some-

time next week."

championship 32/29. At the end of the man Dr. Sari Hamdan handso over the medals for the champions and prizes to the referees. Meanwhile Deputy Munir Sobar and the president of the Alif-Club Mohammad Baza dogh handed prizes for the best players Jihad Qtaishat/ Salt, Jamal Fatch Allah/At Arabi, and best goal keep; er for the 1994 season Nael Ghazi/Amman_

Meanwhile Yarmouk AL Shouneh reserved 5th place, in the championship after beating Amman 32/26 in a postponed match. After this season's cham-

pionship two teams were relegated to the second division — Al Orthodoxi and Al Barcha. Al Jalil and Tarif clubs will join the first division in the upcoming

FINAL STANDINGS

	P	w	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Ahli	13	12	_	1	452	305	24
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Hussein	12	4	2	6	336	351	19
Y. Shouneh	12	4	ī	7	358	390	9
Amman	12	3	_	ġ		364	-
Orthodoxi	12	ĭ	_	11		413	-

Rams close to deal to move to St. Louis John Shaw was quoted as

LOS ANGELES (R) - The Los Angeles Rams football team is close to an agreement for a move to St. Louis, the Los Angeles Times has re-

The move, which would require National Football League approval at the annual March Owners' Meetings in Phoenix, might also include the sale of 40 per cent of the team to Stan Kroenke. a Missouri businessman who would pay \$80 million, the newspaper said.

Details and paperwork. which could be completed in a few days, appear to be the only obstacles keeping the NFI team from announcing their intention to leave Southern California, it said.

"I think we are close to an agreement," Rams president

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Those interested, please call at the Language Centre for registration or further information. Registration begins on Saturday, Jan. 21, 1995.

Directed by Akram Abul Ragheb

.Daily at 3.30 p.m -

Transatlantic ste third time in its igmes, falling to 1~2 swimmer fends West Arena

off shark attack and with 33 persons s izrles Barkley added PARIS (R) - A Frenchman and 13 recounds. on a trouble-plagued sologica led of 34 with swim across the Atlantic hard nine third quarter beaten off shark bent on bigging on 2 142 tear to

ing off his leg, swim sponsor; commanding 75-50. said Friday. said outscoring the An unscathed Guy Dalage of in the third quarreported by radio taht he was hising Phoenix to 1231 swimming along feeling "down in the dumps" Thursday when he "felt a pre-

pro football team, the Los the 2.5-metre (eight-foot) Angeles Raiders, and have shark, jaws open and pose made no secret of their desire to chomp down on his right Without time to grab h 1994, ending the seasons with anti-shark pistol, Delay managed to fend off

sence" in the water near him. Turning his head, he saw

tive losses. Monday, the team fired its coach, Chuck Knox. Kroenke, who has family ties to Wal-Mart Department Stores, would be given right of first refusal should the rest of the team ever be sold, the

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away, the radio message said Friday also raise some ion to finance its cambold the finals, said Mong-Joon, president Fures Football Assoad vice-president of

Consists of 3 bedrooms, 2 salons, dining, sitting, 2 wild soccer's government. bathrooms and kitchen with separate central heating plus garage and little garden. Location: 4th be more than well I be told a group of -nonters in Seoul. omminee said 22 South Korea had aprovide venues for and were working Subuild new stadia

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bid alone. Chung san would like to



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THE MASK Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 19:30	The Lion King Shows: 10:30, 12:30, 3:30, 5:00	CONCORD "2" Harrison Ford - Whitney Houston — THE BODYGUARD	Children's Play	The theatre is closed on Mondays	For reservation, please 625155 in English Sund

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Charlotte Hornets centre Alouzo Mourning Nuggets' centre Dikembe Mutombo (right) (left) loses control of the ball as Denver looks on.

Cavaliers upset Phoenix Suns

PHOENIX (R) — Terrell 4-of-18 shooting (22 per cent)
Brandon set the tone for — and turned the ball over Cleveland with an explosive first quarter as the Cavaliers handed the Phoenix Suns just their second home loss of the season, 107-96, in a battle of division leaders.

Brandon scored 18 of Cleveland's first 24 points on his way to a career-high 30point performance to help halt the Suns' five-game winining streak.

Cleveland also got 19 points and 10 rebounds from Tyrone Hill as Phoenix lost for just the third time in its last 18 games, falling to 16-2 at the America West Arena

f Shark attack with 33 points

Those in the season.

Danny Manning paced the Phoenix attack with 33 points and Charles Barkley added 15 points and 13 rebounds. The Cavs led 61-54 with 8:46 left in the third quarter before going on a 14-2 tear to grab a commanding 75-56.

Cleveland outscoring the Suns 29-17 in the third quarter -- holding Phoenix to just

just six times in the game. In San Antonio, Sean Elliott scored 32 points and Vinny Del Negro added a 27 as the Spurs overcame the absence of star centre David Robinson to score a 113-108

victory over the Miami Heat. Del Negro tied Chuck Person's club record with five three-pointers in the first half as San Antonio cruised to its sixth straight win and 13th in its last 14 games.

Robinson did not dress due to a strained lower back mus-

Miami pulled within one at 86-85 with 11:06 left in the fourth quarter on a technical free throw by Glen Rice. But Elliott sparked the Spurs with four points during a game-breaking 10-2 run that left the

Spurs leading 96-87. Kevin Willis had 30 points to lead Miami, which has lost the first four games of its six-game road trip.
In Denver, Mahmoud

Abdul-Rauf had eight points to key a 12-2 second quarter run as the Nuggets pulled away from Dallas en route to a 94-78 rout of the Maver-

Abdul-Rauf, who finished with 13 points, had a pair of three-pointers to help the Nuggets turn a 35-32 advantage with 3:30 left in the second quarter into a 47-34 halftime bulge.

The Nuggets would lead by as many as 21 and never let the Mavericks close than 13 in the second half.

Dikembe Mutombo had 15 points, 12 rebounds, and seven blocked shots and Rodney Rogers added 16 points to pace Denver, while Jim Jackson and Jamal Mashburn each had 15 points to lead the

RESULTS

San Antonio 113, Miami 108 Denver 94, Dallas 78 Cleveland 107, Phoenix 96

South Korea ready to invest massively for 2002 World Cup

SEOUL (R) - South Korea is ready to pour hundreds of millions of dollars into building new stadiums and rewins its bid to stage the 2002 four times. World Cup, bid committee

nembers said Friday It would also raise some \$30 million to finance its campaign to hold the finals, said Dhung Mong-Joon, president of the Korea Football Association and vice-president of FIFA, world soccer's governing body.

"We will be more than well prepared," he told a group of foreign reporters in Seoul. The committee said 22 cities in South Korea had applied to provide venues for the games and were working plans to build new stadia or to renovate existing facili-

"Reconstruction only will cost several hundred millions of dollars," Chung said. Seoul plans to upgrade the main stadium and other facilities built for the 1988 Olympic Games as the foundation

Chung said South Korea was the best qualified Asian Nation to host the cup as it novating existing venues if it had qualified for the finals

FIFA has indicated the Asia in 2002, although Mexico has made a surprise bid to host the competition it staged in 1970 and 1986.

Of the three contenders for 2002, Japan appears South Korea's most serious rival, but it has never got past the qualifying rounds. The bid winner is to be announced in

"If you talk about Asian football, no one can deny that Korea is foremost," said Shin Dong-Won, executive vice-chairman of the Korean bidding committee.

He and Chung accused the Japanese of spending excessive on thier campaign. Chung estimated Japan was spending \$100 million for the bid alone.

Chung said South Korea would like to hold the event

jointly with communist North Korea, although co-hosting would need a change in FIFA

The two Koreas still remain bitter cold war foes, although prospects for detente have looked somewhat brighter with the recent warming of ties between the United States and North Korea.

Chung said contacts he had had with North Korean soccer officials gave him "a hunch the North is interested in co-hosting" the cup.

North Korea, whose team reached the World Cup finals in England in 1966, has made no formal statement about co-hosting the competition. He said estimates showed the competition could generate \$30 billion in terms of boosted business, tourism re-

venue and other spin-offs. "Football can be a very profitable industry," he said. "Korea is already competitive in seven major industries. Our purpose is to make football the eighth most com-

Can Agassi stand the heat in battle with world No. 1 Sampras

MELBOURNE (AFP) The blistering heat of next week's Australian Open will see Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras resume hostilities in their all-American battle for tennis supremacy.

Can flash Andre beat perfect Pete. For the image conscious Agassi, with actress Brooke Shields on his arm, the Melbourne Grand Slam event will be an acid test. Can he muster the consistency to chip away at Sampras's mam-

"People talk about being number one, but the reality is you've got to want to be number one every time you step on the court and you've got to want to be number one everytime you step on the court for over a year," Agassi

Agassi, making his first trip to the Australian Open after a flurry of last-minute withdrawals, is the game's most charismatic player.

The 24-year-old American, minus his long hair, arrived in Australia on his private jet earlier this week to do his final tune-up at a six-man exhibition tournament in Adelaide.

Agassi embarked on what could be a watershed year at a career-high second in the rankings after becoming the first unseeded player in almost 30 years to carry off the U.S. Open last Septem-

The flamboyant Agassi's new-found steely attitude is attributed to the hiring of sage American pro Brad Gilbert as his new coach last March.

Heading into the year's first Grand Slam there is a yawning 1,848 points gap in the rankings betwee Agassi and Sampras, who has been the world's premier player for 89 weeks.

Yet there are those who feel that Sampras is perceptively coming back to the Sampras said he was un-

beatable in the first half of 1994. It's hard to argue. He won a career-high 10 titles. had the best match record (74-11) and won the Australian Open and his second Wimbledon.

Blighted by foot and hamstring injuries in the second part of '94, Sampras suddenly began to look mortal, bust statistically he still has much in store. In a summit rivalry that

IS IS CTAVING FOR, Samoras leads Agassi 7-5 in head-tohead encounters. Sampras's path to the final

looms as a minefield as he first has to negotiate a potential hazardous bottom half of the draw. He is scheduled to face

Grand Slam Cup champion Magnus Larsson in the round of 16, two-time winner Jim Courier or Michael Stich in the quarters, and possibly Goran Ivanisevic or Michael



Pete Sampras

Chang in the semi-finals. Rejuvenated Boris Becker looks in terrific fettle.

His sizeable entourage in Australia includes a fitness trainer in the form of ex-high jumper Carlo Thraenhardt. who has helped ensure the 1991 champion will return to Melbourne in far better

shape than in 1992 and 1993. His sights now are clearly set on regaining the top spot he last held in 1991, although he rates Agassi as another serious contender.

Stefan Edberg, also like Becker in Agassi's side of the draw, believes he still can win his seventh Grand Slam, but that retrieving the world No. 1 he relinquished to Courier in 1992 was "too far fetched now" as he approaches 29 this month.

Jim Courier is another who likes playing in the fierce heat winning back-to-back Australian Opens in 1992-93.

Courier had a wretched year in 1994. He didn't carry off any titles, but his victory in Adelaide last week broke a barren 16 months and he can be dangerous on the slick Rebound Ace surface.

No. 1 ranking beckons for Sanchez Vicario

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario can dethrone sidelined Steffi Graf as world No. 1 if she can accumulate enough bonus points en route to winning the Australian Open tennis

Twelve months ago the bouncy Spaniard was overwhelmed by Graf inside an hour here in an embarrassingly one-sided final - now 23-year-old Sanchez Vicario is on the verge of usurping

Graf's mantle as queen. She cleaned up eight single titles, more than any other player in 1994, and claimed her second French Open crown at Roland Garros and became the first Spanish woman to win the U.S.

Graf, a four-time winner here, pulled out of the Australian Open last week with a calf muscle injury amid continuing concerns about a back complaint.

Sanchez Vicario, for so long in the shadow of Graf and Monica Seles, can emerge and take over at No.

GOREN BRIDGE

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.3-East-West vulnerable, as

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The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West

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The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
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What do you bid now?

Grand Slam.

Sanchez Vicario will meet

China's Fang Li in the first round and is seeded to meet Bulgarian Magdalena Maleeva, the ninth seed, in the round of 16, Japan's Kimiko Date in the quarters and either Novotna or Sabatina in the semis.

Novotna kicks off against ne Werdel.

In the bottom half of the draw, second seed Conchita bump into France's Julie Halard, the 16th seed, in the round of 16, sixth seed Lindsay Davenport in the quarters and fourth seed Mary Pierce

1 if she can beat enough seeded players along the way to claiming the year's first

"I know I am close (to the world No. 1), but I don't feel under any pressure," she said

The Spaniard is top seed at a Grand Slam for the first time and here Friday was drawn in the same half as fifth seed Gabriela Sabatini and third seed Jana Novotna.

Canadian Patricia Hy-Boulais, while Sabatini lines up against American Marian-

Martinez is scheduled to of France in the semis.

♣A8 ∇82 PA1094 ♣A9762 The bidding has proceeded:

\$965 A94 Q72 \$8763 Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

Pass

Reduced NHL season will be odd

NEW YORK (AFP) — As National Hockey League players approved a deal to save a 1995 season delayed in a labour dispute, U.S. and Canadian fans began pondering the oddest race ever for the Stanley Cup trophy.
Instead of each team play-

ing 84 regular-season games over 61/2 months, NHL clubs are expected to cram 48 games into 31/2 months and extend playoffs through the end of June, a month later

than ever before. A revised schedule will include games only between conference foes meaning western teams will play only against themselves and the same for eastern teams until the champion from each region plays for the league title.

The New York Rangers won the league crown last year for the first time since 1940, touching off a celebration for long-suffering follow-

But Rangers' coach Mike Keenan departed after the season in a tiff with management, turning up as coach in St. Louis. His return was long awaited by New York fans. But with the clubs in opposite conferences, it can only come this season if both teams make the finals.

The reduced schedule means other hardships for North American fans. The Rangers will not be seen in Los Angeles or Vancouver, whose Canucks pushed the Ranges to the seventh and final game of last season's title series.

Los Angeles Kings star Wayne Gretzky will not play in New York, Boston, Quebec or Montreal. Chicago and Detroit, long-time NHL teams, will not play at Boston or Montreal in venerable arenas housing hockey for the final time before being torn down.

Suddenly every game is critical for determining which 16 teams reach the playoffs.



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The bidding has proceeded:

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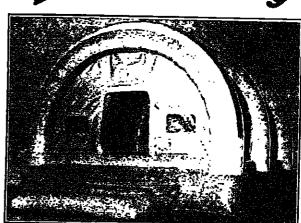
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Iraqis bitter and angry as U.N. maintains sanctions

poverished Iraqis on Friday reacted with frustration and anger to the U.N. Security Council's decision to maintain sanctions against Iraq, with special ire reserved for the United States' U.N.

"Who does that wretched witch think she is? Before every review she demands something new from Iraq," said an old woman of Ambassador Madeleine Albright, who opposed the lifting of the crippling sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The old woman, carrying her last set of porcelain cups to sell at a Friday market, was one of thousands of Iraqis who braved Baghdad's chill morning to offer personal belongings for sale.

In the past two weeks prices have soared in Bagh-dad as the dinar tumbled against the U.S. dollar, People feared the council decision to continue with the embargo might lead to further price rises.

Who is America punishing and for what?" asked an old man, offering his last two chickens for sale. 'We do not understand the game. We are the victims —

the ordinary people." Some cursed the U.S. and Ambassador Albright, who is now a household name in

The blanket embargo is biting deep. It has devastated Iraq's economy, now in the grip of hyper-inflation and suffering acute shortage of essential foodstuffs and

Mediators from the five-

nation "contact group" press-

ed the Serbs on Friday to

accept the latest peace plan

for ending nearly three years

But the talks in the Bos-

nian Serb headquarters at

Pale took place against a

background of gathering cri-

sis in international efforts to

bring peace to former Yugos-

sion to order U.N. troops out

United Nations officials

saw little chance that Croatia

would change its mind on

throwing out 15,000 U.N.

troops because its ultimatum

left little room for man-

to discuss later Friday Presi-

dent Franjo Tudjman's deci-

sion to end the mandate of

U.N. forces when it expires

on March 31 and make sure

they leave within three

Mr. Tudjman told U.N.

Secretary-General Boutros

months after that

The Security Council was

of war in Bosnia.

of its territory.

medical supplies.

ernment wages which have not kept up with inflation. Many civil servants, including teachers, refuse to work

as their monthly salaries are less than what they would pay for transport to their work-Public services are a sham-

bles and Baghdad municipality has already warned that the city's sewage system, serving more than four million people, was bound to collapse in the absence of pumping machines and spare

Iraq's health system, once among the best in the third world, is crumbling. Hospital doctors ask patients to bring their own blankets, plates and spoons.

The government, short of hard cash to pay for urgent needs, has reduced food rations by about half, forcing more people to rely on the inflated market prices.

The hardships have made Iraqis turn their wrath on Western and Arab states. particularly the United States and Kuwait. There are no signs of urban discontent with the government of President Saddam Hussein despite the

The country's most influential paper Babel said the U.S. was concocting claims to prolong the embargo and vowed Baghdad would crush Washington's "exposed con-

spiracy. Ambassador Albright told the council on Thursday her government was "determined to oppose any modification of the sanctions regime until Iraq has moved to comply with its outstanding obliga-

Contact group presses

country was untenable and

that U.N. troops only solidi-

fied the status quo by being stationed in Serb-held terri-

tory.
Serbs in Croatia's Krajina
Zagreb

region, who fought Zagreb

when it declared independ-

ence from Yugoslavia in

1991, hold a third of Croatia

and Mr. Tudiman's govern-

U.N. officials fear the de-

parture of the U.N. force

from Croatia will bring about

a resumption of fighting be-

tween Serbs and Croats that

would have catastrophic con-

Serbs on peace plan

Iran's mission at the United Nations meanwhile denied U.S. claims that Iraq was selling contraband oil through Iran, Tehran's official news agency IRNA said on Friday.

"The Iranian mission at the United Nations Thursday brushed aside the allegations made by the U.S. envoy at the Security council on the sale of Iraqi oil through Iran. terming it as Washington's propaganda campaign against Iran," IRNA said.

The United States accused Iraq on Thursday of selling oil through Iran for \$5 a barrel instead of using a U.N.-approved scheme permitting limited sales providing Baghdad between \$8 and \$9 a barrel to buy humanitarian supplies.

IRNA quoted a press re-lease by Iran's U.N. mission as saying: "Unduly involving Iran in the sale of Iraqi oil serves only the propaganda campaign of the United States against Iran while doing disservice to the efforts of the Security Council."

"The mission added that Iran, in compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions, has reported to the United Nations and the Security Council Sanctions Committee on Dec. 15, 1994 and June 24, 1994, of the measures it has taken including the impoundment of several cargo vessels in and around the Persian Gulf and Arvad Rud to enforce the ban against the sale of Iraqi oil," IRNA added.



WOUNDED: A wounded Chechen fighter is evacuated in Grozny. Russia launched a final assault on the Chechen capital on Friday and sent reinforcements of several hundred naval personnel including marines to breakaway bombardment of Grozny, ending a full in fighting that followed a Moscow ceasefire offer (AFP photo)

EIB funds available for Jordan-Israel water projects

By P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN - The European Union (EU) has agreed in principle to extend financing for joint Israeli-Jordanian water projects after studies establish the feasibility of the projects, a senior European

Yves Gazzo, head of the Delegation of European Commission in Jordan, said the commission had also offered to finance the feasi-

"There is an agreement in principle that the (EU) would provide financing for the projects after feasibility studies are conducted on the pro-Mir. Gazzo told the Jordan Times.

for several distinct projects to let Jordan have an additional 215 million cubic metres of water every year. These include at least two dams, a pipeline and a water purifica-

The annex on water of the peace treaty says: "Operation and maintenance of the systems on Israeli territory that supply Jordan with water, with their electricity supply, shall be Israel's responsibility. The operation and maintenance of the new systems that serve only Jordan will be contracted at Jordan's expense to authorities

or companies selected by Jor-Estimates have put the cost of the projects at around \$400 million, with the cost of the dams and water purification

Lebanon is in tolerable," Mr.

Zamir said of Hizbollah

attacks in the buffer zone

Israel occupies in South

Lebanon. "The army knows

"You must create a situa-

More than 130 people,

mostly Lebanese civilians,

were killed and up to 300,000

forced to flee their homes in

cians have said the under-

standings, coupled with con-

cern over deadlocked peace

talks with Syria and Leba-

non, have tied the army's

hands in fighting Hizbollah. Mr. Zamir said Syria, main

power broker in Lebanon

Israeli opposition politi-

the 1993 raids.

how to put an end to it."

of attrition. How? If.

pipeline would pump 50 million cubic metres a year from Lake Tiberias in northern Israel to Jordan. No definite split-ups were available. The estimated cost of the

pipeline project, expected to

be built with Jordanian

financing, was not immediately known. Mr. Gazzo said the Euro-

pean Union was making available 1.8 billion European currency units (ECUs), or about \$2.2 billion, for "regional projects" as part of the Middle East peace process. "We have told the parties

that financing could be available for good and feasible projects from this fund," which is administered by the European Investment Bank (EIB), an arm of the European Union, Mr. Gazzo said. EIB financing is offered at

According to diplomatic sources, Israel is arguing that it is giving "free water" and, as such, it should not be asked to bear any cost of the projects. "They want to consider water as a sort of downpayment and say that Jordan

should raise the necessary

financing," said a diplomat familiar with the issue. It was not immediately known whether the issue was discussed in detail between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin during a four-hour visit Mr. Rabin paid to

Amman on Thursday. In comments to reporters after the talks, Mr. Rabin, however, referred to the need to address Jordan's water problems as a bilateral issue and part of the Oct. 26 peace accord.

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Commission official said Fri-

bility studies.

Ex-Mossad chief urges Lebanon attacks

could curb Hizbollah if it "We are at war, and in war mûst act as one does in war. The Syrians must understand that it is impossible to con-

duct talks on the one hand,

tion such that the Lebanese and on the other, to use and the Syrians won't have an Hizbollah against us.' A bitter opponent of the interest in continuing this war example, there will be vowed to oust Israel from the 250,000 refugees in Beirut, I 15-kilometre-wide zone. think this would come to an

For the most part, the border conflict has been played out according to the understandings. On a few occasions Israel shelled and bombed villages following attacks.
The pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) responded

when civilians were hurt by firing rockets at northern Israel towns.

Lebanese-Israeli talks have gone nowhere since they began in 1991. Beirut, which closely coordinates its negotiating posture with Syria, demands Israel pull all its

troops from the south. Asked about Jewish settlements, the sensitive dispute

that has thrown to a wrench into aiready troubled Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, Mr. Zamir said he favoured uprooting all settlements in the Gaza Strip and many of those in the West Bank. He

ments, allowed to stay for now under the 1993 peace deal, could not be protected. "They will always be a burden for us, they will always be victims of terror."

Mr. Zamir, Mossad chief from 1968-74, said many West Bank settlements must be moved to create defensible blocs in areas Israel needs for its security. He said the sides, due to discuss settlements by mid-1996, should decide the issue now.

"We must go immediately for a final agreement, remove settlements, and reduce the

The Jordan-Israel peace treaty signed on Oct. 26 calls plant put at between \$150 million and \$180 million. The soft terms carrying low in-

TEL AVIV (R) — A former Israeli spymaster said in an interview published on Fri-day Israel should combat Hizbollah guerrillas in South Lebanon by unleashing a military operation that would send 250,000 refugees fleeing to Beirut. Ex-Mossad chief Zvi

But Mr. Zamir, who sent

hit teams abroad to hunt

down Palestinian figures in a

Zamir told Yedioth Ahro noth daily the army should act despite U.S. and Syrianbrokered understandings which ended a ferocious Israeli-air-and-artillery "I am afraid the last seven onslaught in July, 1993 with a ban on attacking civilian

sequences for efforts to achieve peace in Bosnia. Envoys from the "contact group" held talks with the Bosnian Serb military and political leadership on Friday in an attempt to persuade outside Sarajevo. them to accept the peace

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said the meeting was overshadowed by a decision by the U.N. Security Croatia and Bosnia by denying them shipments of oil from Serbia.

The Security Council also voted on Thursday night to extend by 100 days the suspension of certain sanctions against rump Yugoslavia in recognition of its decision to cut off the supply of arms and fuel to Serbs in Bosnia.

Mr. Kradzic, who has con-sistently rejected the peace plan drafted last summer, however, expressed the hope there would be progress in peace talks.

or eight months have been in vain but I hope the apcoming four months will result in satisfactory steps," he told reporters in the Bosnian Serb headquarters of Pale, just

tit-for-tat assassination war in the 1970s, took a dovish line The main warring factions on peace moves with the Palestinians, saying Israel should uproot Jewish settlein Bosnia have signed a fourmonth ceasefire intended to ments in Gaza and the West provide breathing space for

(Continued on page7)

"What is going on today in with 35,000 troops there, U.N. envoys advises aid agencies to quit Mogadishu

U.N. agencies and nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) should pull their international staff out of Mogadishu to avoid kidnappers

He said U.N. agencies had separate mandates and would decide for themselves whether to remain after U.N. troops left but he had recommended all international aid workers be pulled out.

them not to risk it because of. the instability here and the propensity of Somalia to take hostages and attack foreigners." he said. "Until there

Mr. Gbeho told Reuters in in interview one reason why U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) was based there with "buge assets" which Somalis wanted.

largest employer in Somalia... the leaders of the political factions and elders were dependent on UNOSOM. They never believed we were serious about peace.

away. People are getting thrown out of their work and we are terminating their con-

consciousness is coming upon the leaders... I believe this in itself will make them a little more peaceful, a little more realistic," Mr. Gbeho said.

The envoy said many agencies already based in Kenya could continue to operate with Somali staff in Mogadishu.

French aid worker Rudy Marg.

Siad Barre remains buried

dictator Mohammad Siad Barre were buried in his home village of Garbahaar-rey in southwestern Somalia Thursday, his family reported Friday.

body from Lagos. Siad Barre assumed power in a coup d'etat in 1969. He was overthrown by a coali-tion of clans in a bloody civil war in January 1991.

1 said killed and several hurt in Bahrain clashes NICOSIA (AFP) — Oue

person was shot dead and several wounded in fresh clashes between demonstrators and security forces in Bahrain, in the worst violence for a month, witnesses and diplomatic sources said

The sources, contacted by telephone from Nicosia, said the clashes erupted late Thursday in the mostly Shiite villages of Diraz. Beni Jamrah, Abu Shibaa, Barbar, Jid Hafs and Sanabes, on the road to Budaya, northwest of

The dead man was named as 25-year-old Mohsen Ai Fatlawi. Tyres set ablaze by demonstrators filled the villages with black smoke overnight. Tension was still running high

on Friday, and the road to Budaya, 15 kilometres from the capital, was closed. Demonstrators called for the return of parliamentary, democracy and for political

reforms, as well as the release of prisoners. Siogans were painted on the walls of houses in the villages. It was the worst violence since protests broke out in the Gulf emirate in mid-

December after the arrest of a prominent Shifte cleric, the sources said. Clashes also occurred in the town of Sitra, northeast of Manama. Diplomats and witnesses

said the Bahraini security forces opened fire with real bullets, tear-gas and rubber. builets, as several helicopters

They were also backed by a Saudi anti-riot unit.

Around 100 troop carriers were posted around the village of Diraz on Friday, the sources said. Eight Sandi troop carriers were sighted the previous day near Barbar, after having crossed the border following last month's

The London-based Arabic newspaper Al Hayat, meanwhile, said Bahraini authorities had freed more than 150 demonstrators arrested in earlier clashes

Quoting Bahraini government sources, the daily said a total of 400 people have been arrested in the violence. But last month's clashes had "not interrupted" trade or the running of government.

According to the Commit-tee for the Defence of Political Prisoners in Bahrain based in London, 2,486 people have been arrested since the start of the violence which flared after the arrest of Sheikh Ali Salman on Dec. 5.

The opposition in exile has reported new troubles almost daily with protesters demanding the release of all those arrested and a restoration of parliament suspended in

The Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain has said 15 people died in the violence in December, but the Sunni-led government has only acknowledged the death of one policeman.

Car crashes into Buckingham Palace in London

LONDON (R) — A Briton drove his car into the front gates of Queen Elizabeth's Buckingham Palace resident can be a be a bridge can be a be a bridge can be a br dence in London Friday causing one of the gates to collapse, police said. The gate fell on top of the Volkswagen Polo sparking a security alert and the driver, who was not injured, was taken to a nearby police station where detectives were trying to establish the cause of the crash. The driver, in his 20s, drove into the gates at about 04.30 GMT.-There were no further details of the accident im-mediately available.

Smoking banned in New York's public places

NEW YORK (AFP) — Mayor Rudolph Giuliani has banned smoking in New York's restaurants, outdoor stadiums, zoos and work-places in a sweeping new measure intended to create a healthier environment in the U.S. metropolis. "Thousands and thousands of lives have been destroyed" by smoking, Mr. Giuliani said after signing the legislation. "The fact that tobacco smoke is poisonous is clear," he said. New York restaurant owners lobbied frantically against the measure which is set to come into force on April 10, arguing that the law would lead to financial ruin. Smoking is banned in dining areas of all restaurants seating more than 35 people, which accounts for 80 per cent of all New York eateries. In work places, smoking is restricted to separately ventilated rooms and private offices when no more than three people are present. More than 100 cities in the United States, including Los Angeles and San Francisco, have banned smoking in all restaurants.

Şçientists fill in a galactic void

TUCSON, Arizona (AFP) — Scientists using higherpowered telescopes to scan faint galaxies in an area once thought to be a great cosmic void. Astronomers found 50 previously unknown galaxies in a region called Bootes Void some 700 million light years from Earth, according to reports. "It was a region that was thought to be totally devoid of any galaxies," said Greg Aldering of the University of Minnesota. "We've surveyed two thirds of it now and have found 50," he added. A previous survey in 1981 with less sensitive telescopes found no galaxies and scientists then called the area a rare cosmic void. The discovery of the new galaxies still leaves Bootes Void a vast emptiness compared to other regions in the universe. Other areas around the universe the size of Bootes Void may contain hundreds or thousands of galaxies, "It has only about a third of the material that is average for such an area;" Aldering said.

Vietnam gives top officials English lessons

HANOI (AFP) — Vietnam is giving English classes to its top government officials following an order by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet obliging cadres to learn at least one foreign language, a report said. About 40 deputy ministers and heads of goverument departments began classes at the National Administration Academy in Hanoi last mouth, the Tuoi Tre newspaper said quoting an official source. By the end of the one-year course the officials will be able to work in English and communicate with English-speaking partners, the tri-weekly newspaper said. The classes come after Mr. Kier's August 1994 directive on foreign language and as Vietnam battles to attract foreign investment and to join the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), which uses East glish as its common language. English has become the most widely used foreign language in Vietnam over recent years as an increasing number of foreign businessmen and officials began coming here after Hanoi's doors began opening to the outside world.

4.

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5 Egyptian iournalists abandon hunger strike

CAIRO (R) — Five Egyptian journalists have abandoned a hunger strike after up to eight days fasting in protest at the detention of prominent writer and pro-Islamist politician Adel Hussein, one of their allies said on Friday.

Magdi Hussein, editor of the Islamist newspaper Al Shaab and a newphew of the writer, said the hunger strikers stopped because Adel Hussein told them he was worried about their health and that they had already achieved most of their aims. "He told them the harass-

ment had stopped and that he had been moved out of the awful cell he was in." he told Ibrahim Nafie, head of the Union of Journalists, had also assured them the authorities would not renew the

detention order against Adel

Hussein for a further 15 days

next week, he added. Mr. Hussein has been in iail for three weeks on suspicion that he possessed leaflets from the outlawed Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group), the main organisation fighting the government. Mr. Hussem says he knows nothing about the leaflets, found on the seat of a plane several months ago.

MOGADISHU (Agencies)

— The U.N. special envoy to
Somalia said on Friday all

and attacks. But Victor Gbeho said he believed a March 31 U.N. troops withdrawal would be followed only by clashes rather than a return to fullscale civil war and the pullout might even hasten peace.

"I have already advised

is evidence that will no longer be the case I will not advise them to stay." fighting for the past two years concentrated on the warswept capital was because the

"As long as we were the

"Now a new reality, a new

U.N. agencies met in the Kenyan capital Nairobi on Friday to decide whether to join a suspension of nonemergency operations in Mogadishu by NGOs in a bid to force kidnappers to release

The remains of late Somali

Siad Barre died in exile in Nigeria on Jan. 2 of a heart Village authorities built a make-shift airstrip for the Nigerian air force C-130 which brought Siad Barre's